



Everyone here at **The GEM** wishes all our readers and advertisers a very peaceful Christmas. We are now taking a festive break and will not be publishing next week, but we will be back again on Thursday, January 4.



Queen's Medal for Tony Rossetti, a Wales Ambulance Service stalwart



Tony Rossetti with his son Gino, wife Julie and mother Kath outside Buckingham Palace.

A **WELSH Ambulance Service** stalwart says he is 'truly honoured' after being awarded the **Queen's Ambulance Service Medal**.

Community First Responder (CFR) Officer Tony Rossetti was presented with the medal by Prince Charles during a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace.

It comes after he was recognised in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours List in June for distinguished and meritorious service.

Tony, who lives in Bridgend and works in Cardiff, has been part of the ambulance service for 32 years.

He has dedicated himself to increasing the number of CFR volunteers, who give up their spare time to provide emergency care to communities in Wales.

He is also a leading contributor to the PONT charity, which helps the communities in Uganda, and has devised and delivered lifesaving training for health workers in the Mbale district.

Tony, who attended the ceremony with his wife Julie, mother Kath and son Gino, said he accepted the award on behalf of his family, friends and colleagues.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

Santa helps hospital radio deliver gifts to children's ward



Bridgend Hospital Radio thanked the generosity of shoppers in Sainsbury's Bridgend, who donated presents that were delivered to children on wards.
SEE PAGE 21 FOR THE FULL STORY.

Porthcawl Lions plan for Boxing Day run

PORHCRAWL Lions are really delighted with the response they are receiving from entrants to their **Boxing Day Fun Run**.

This popular 7K event starts at 11am from the Hi Tide and the route takes the runners along the sea front up to Rest Bay and then back.

All those who finish receive a medal

and of course there are prizes for various age groups, adult and junior.

Participants can find out how to register on the Lions website which is porthcawllions.org.uk

Following the Christmas festivities the Porthcawl Lions are once again hosting a Burns' Night social event at the Hi Tide on Friday, January 26.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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Local Emmaus Companions cook hostel staff Christmas lunch

FORMERLY homeless individuals living at the Emmaus South Wales Community in Cefn Glas, Bridgend, invited staff from the Brynmynny Family Hostel for Christmas lunch recently.

Companions, as the formerly homeless individuals who live in the community home are known, cooked Christmas lunch for the staff from the hostel, as they work on Christmas Day.

The Companions cooked a fantastic three-course lunch for the hostel staff, which included a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and a homemade trifle.

There was a great

atmosphere around the table, with Companions sharing how Emmaus has helped them and staff from the hostel sharing how they help their service users.

The Emmaus Community has been supporting the hostel for some time. Companions often re-donate any surplus food that has been donated by local businesses to them.

This ensures as many people in need benefit from the food donations and also that nothing goes to waste.

If you would like to support Emmaus South Wales or find out more about what we do, visit the new website at www.emmaus-southwales.org.uk

ES

A busy time for Pen-y-Fai WI

IT has been a very busy time for the WI ladies, starting in November with a trip to see the Carole King musical Beautiful at the Millennium Centre.

There was also a Glamorgan Federation trip to Derbyshire, which included a day at Chatsworth House to attend its Christmas market.

The usual monthly meeting included a talk on 'The history of the department store' by Alan Underhill; the vote of thanks was given by Beverley Harry.

Later in the month, a full coach of members headed to Norfolk. The trip included a visit to Holkham Hall, which had been seasonally decorated and a visit to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular show. Thanks were given to president Angela Smith for organising the trip.

Members who didn't go on the trip helped to decorate a tree for the annual Christmas Tree

Festival and bazaar held at Tondur Methodist Chapel.

December's activities began with the Federation annual carol concert at Brangwyn Hall, where Pen-y-Fai members took part by singing in the Glamorgan choir.

A coach full of members went on a shopping spree in Cardiff, which was followed by a tour of the Mansion House (the former home of the Howells store family), which is now used for many civic functions. A wonderful afternoon tea was then served in what was the former billiard room of James Howell.

The luncheon club will meet at The Watermill for an Christmas meal and the usual monthly meeting for December will be a Christmas party for all members.

The theme of eating and drinking will continue into the New Year with the annual dinner at The Fountain Inn on January 22. The next meeting will be on January 15.

AS

It's not only Santa's sack to deal with at Christmas...

WASTE collections in Bridgend county borough will be two days later in Christmas week, then one day later after New Year.

Householders can put out 'limitless' recycling. Christmas cards, turkey and more can be recycled, but not wrapping paper.

Recycling and waste collection arrangements for Christmas and the New Year have been confirmed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). With Christmas Day and Boxing Day falling on a Monday and a Tuesday in the first week, all scheduled collections will be two days later up until Sunday.

Then, with New Year's Day falling on a Monday in the second week, all scheduled collections will be one day later. All householders will return to their normal collection dates on Monday, January 8.

Christmas week
Monday December 25 (Christmas Day) is now Wednesday December 27.

Tuesday 26
December (Boxing Day) is now Thursday 28 December.

Wednesday 27
December is now Friday 29 December.

Thursday 28
December is now Saturday 30 December.
Friday 29 December

is now Sunday 31 December.

New Year's week

Monday 1 January (New Year's Day) is now Tuesday 2 January.

Tuesday 2 January is now Wednesday 3 January.

Wednesday 3 January is now Thursday 4 January.

Thursday 4 January is now Friday 5 January.

Friday 5 January is now Saturday 6 January.

Deputy Leader Hywel Williams said: "While the festive season generally means more waste, the vast majority of materials can all be recycled.

"Food leftovers, including your turkey carcass, can go out in your food caddy. Paper waste, including envelopes, can be placed in your white sack, and plastic packaging goes in your blue sack.

"Don't forget that not all types of plastic are suitable for recycling, so check www.recycleforbridgend.wales to find out more about this.

"Cardboard, including Christmas cards, can go in your orange sack, and even Christmas trees can be disposed of at a local community recycling centre [formerly 'the tip'].

"The main items that can't be recycled are likely to be things like polystyrene and Christmas wrapping

paper - these should go out with your general waste in your blue bin bag.

"While the two-day limit will be in place as usual and we are encouraging residents to try and stick to this, Kier has agreed that householders who find it difficult to fit in all of their non-recyclable Christmas waste will be able to put it out for collection as a separate black bag, or pre-sort it and take it to a recycling centre.

"The festive season is exceptionally busy and Kier may use additional collection vehicles, so don't worry if your cardboard is not collected at the same time as other recycling."

Cllr Williams has also thanked residents for their efforts following the introduction of the new collection arrangements.

He said: "Residents of Bridgend county borough have made a fantastic recycling effort since the new service was introduced in June.

"The area recorded its highest-ever recycling rate of 74 per cent between July and September, while the period between June and August saw a 254-tonne increase in recycling at recycling centres and a 957 tonne drop in the amount of waste sent to landfill.

"These are excellent results, and I am looking forward to

finding out more about what effect the new arrangements have had on Bridgend county borough's recycling performance in the New Year."

Real Christmas trees can be recycled at the community recycling centres in Tythegston, Brynmynny and Maesteg. They can also be taken to the Waterton Depot in Bridgend from January 2 every day apart from Sundays.

Recycling centres will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, but will be open on all other days from 8:30am - 4:30pm.

To find out more about recycling in Bridgend County Borough, visit the council's recycling pages at www.recycleforbridgend.wales

Christmas waste - where does it go?
Pheasant, grouse, partridge, goose, duck

guinea fowl and other food left-overs, including turkey - food caddy

Paper (not wrapping paper) - white recycling sack

Glass bottles and jars - black caddy

Plastic - blue recycling sack

Christmas cards - orange recycling sack

Cardboard - orange recycling sack

Drink and food cans - blue recycling sack

Black plastic - blue bin bag or recycling centre

Christmas wrapping paper - blue bin bag

Polystyrene - blue bin bag

Christmas trees (fake) - recycling centres.

Christmas trees (real) - recycling centre.

They can also be taken to the Waterton Depot in Bridgend from January 2 every day apart from Sundays.

For more information, contact Liam Ronan on (01656) 643217 Email: liam.ronan@bridgend.gov.uk or www.bridgend.gov.uk.

'Thank you for Maesteg Christmas lights'

MAY I offer my sincere thanks to the residents and all concerned for the great turn out at the Christmas lights parade and switch on in Maesteg.

Special thanks go to all the organisations, shops, industry and volunteers who helped make this yet again a

great day.

Thanks also must go to Maesteg Town Council and the town hall staff and councillors for their support, and special thanks to Frank and Richard of Centregate, whose expertise was invaluable in providing the Christmas lighting.

May I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

P W Jenkins, Maesteg.

Bridgend Quiz League

HERE are this week's teasers from the Bridgend Quiz League:

1. Which country issued the first Christmas stamp?
2. How many gifts are given in the song 'Twelve Days Of Christmas'?
3. What is the common name of the plant Viscum Album?

The latest results from the Quiz League are as follows:

	P	W	D	Pts
Division 1				
Penybont Nomads	7	5	0	10
TyRisha Royals	8	5	0	10
Crown Maesteg	8	4	0	8
Five Bells	8	4	0	8
Tondu Railway Club	8	4	0	8
Mackworth Arms	8	3	0	6
Laleston Inn A	7	2	0	4
Division 2:	P	W	D	Pts
Cabo Roche	9	7	0	14
Laleston Inn B	9	6	0	13
Chatterton Shunters	9	6	0	12
Pheasant Gamekeepers	9	4	1	9
Pheasant Poachers	9	4	1	9
Oddfellows Arms	9	3	0	6
Prince of Wales Rebels	9	2	2	6
Five Bells B	9	1	1	3

SK

Answers:
1. Australia.
2. 364.
3. Mistletoe.

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glamorgan-gem.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
21 Thur	08.03	9.4	20.19	9.3
22 Fri	08.41	9.2	20.55	9.1
23 Sat	09.14	9.0	21.29	8.8
24 Sun	09.52	8.7	22.09	8.5
25 Mon	10.33	8.4	22.57	8.2
26 Tues	11.28	8.1	23.57	8.0
27 Wed			12.33	8.1
28 Thur	01.09	8.0	13.42	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call Gareth Jamieson on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG
Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220.
E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk.
Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

The Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild holds 700th meeting

WHAT a busy time of year. Members went to the Federation Carol Service in Cardiff and Diana Richardson and Helen Taylor gave Christmas readings.

Our Christmas lunch at the Bridgend Catering College was much enjoyed as usual - thank you Ruth Lloyd for organising it. Our December meeting was our Christmas party.

It started on a sad note when members stood in memory of Yvonne Cooper, a longtime member who served on committee and will be sadly missed. But it was also our 700th guild meeting. A cake made by Judith

Orphan was cut by chairman Diana and president Freda Rodger.

Entertainment was provided by Rev Clive Williams with fascinating facts about the history of Christmas cards, carols, trees and even bagpipes. Our usual lovely tea followed and guess what? I won the raffle for the Christmas hamper!

Our next meeting is on January 10 at 2pm at All Saints' Church Hall when Elfed and Sheila Pugh will tell us about Mercy Ships. Do come and join us.

A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all!

Dorothy Thomas

The Glamorgan GEM • Contact us...

Tel: 01446 774484 • Fax: 01446 774108

FACEBOOK: GlamorganGEM / TWITTER: gem_news • GEMSportNews

News Submissions: editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Editorial enquiries: gareth.jamieson@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Tim Chapman tim.chapman@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER @TimGlamorganGEM

Philip Irwin philip.irwin@glamorgan-gem.co.uk / TWITTER @PhilipGlamGEM

Andy Johnstone andy.johnstone@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Advertising/Distribution/Classified/Notices: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Sales Manager: jan.irving@glamorgan-gem.co.uk • **Sales:** wendy.snatchfold@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

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Awards hat-trick for Sony engineer

A SONY UK Technology Centre engineer who is helping to "inspire a new generation of female tech talent" has claimed three national awards.

Jessica Leigh Jones received top honours in the Manufacturer Top 100, TechWomen50, and Women of the Future 2017 Awards.

The engineer, who is based at the manufacturing facility in Pencoed, claimed the Technology and Digital award at the Women of the Future Awards, which recognises women making an impact across a diverse range of professional sectors.

She was also recognised among the most exemplary 20 in the Manufacturer Top 100 list for 2017.

Finally, she was named among the winners of the TechWomen50 Awards, following a public vote. These awards highlight the best female tech talent in the country.

Ms Leigh Jones was, said a spokesperson, "...recognised thanks to her passion and dedication to advancing manufacturing and technology standards across the UK. "She has demonstrated



this through her role at Sony UK TEC where she is a part of the facility's landmark Advanced Manufacturing Research Operations Centre team. This facility helps to develop ground-breaking manufacturing processes of the future, focussing on the fourth generation of manufacturing, industry 4.0."

Ms Leigh Jones said: "It's humbling to have been recognised among some of the country's most inspirational female tech talents, who are truly making a difference and driving progress in the UK's tech industry."

"These awards are vital in recognising the unparalleled contribution women are making across technology-based professions and supporting their limitless potential for driving innovation and change in the future."



Bridgend Rotary Club's Singing Santas and the Bridgend Male Choir were out and about raising festive cheer.

The Singing Santas help local charities

THE Rotary Club of Bridgend wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year and would like to thank all who have given very generously to the club's various Christmas charity collections and the organisations who have hosted their

fund raising activities.

Since it was chartered in 1925, the Rotary Club of Bridgend has used the celebration of Christmas to raise funds to assist those who are less fortunate or in need in the Bridgend area and all the money the club collects at Christmas time is used to support local causes and charities.

Busking for charity, especially at Christmas, is a well-established concept. The Bridgend Singing Santas were established in 1992 by the Rotary Club of Bridgend-Ogmore and its friends in the Bridgend Male Choir and perform their own blend of Christmas songs and carols annually in numerous establishments across the borough.

To find more about Rotary, contact www.rotarybridgend.org.uk or the secretary on 01656 660648.

AR

The power of The GEM

RECENTLY, I wrote to recommend The GEM for its reporting on the many acts of remembrance which took place in November.

I also pointed out that in 2014 Porthcawl Shout Forum paid BCBC to poppy seed Porthcawl roundabouts to commemorate the centenary of the Great War.

Then in January and July this year we wrote asking BCBC to repeat the exercise in 2018 and commemorate the end of the War To End Wars but after waiting 11 months, we were disappointed not to have received a reply.

However the situation changed within days of The GEM being

published and I am pleased to say I received an email from BCBC stating they would seed the two Porthcawl Roundabouts with iconic red poppies in 2018.

I also suggested in 2013 that BCBC seed a 'Mile of Wild Flowers' along the Porthcawl dual carriageway, as this would make an attractive entrance into a town trying to attract tourists and have an environmental benefit for bees and insects. It would also save money on expensive roadside grass cutting contractors which is the reason roadside wild flowers are popular with councils such as Swansea and Caerphilly.

Unfortunately BCBC have once again decided against the idea because of 'severe budget cuts'. Gary Victor, Porthcawl Shout Forum.

Sing and learn Welsh

AFTER a short autumn break, the Porthcawl Welsh Leavers' Choir will soon be making plans for 2018.

There will be practices and performances scheduled over the coming months and the focus will then be on competing in the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay in August.

The choir gained third place in Abergavenny in 2016 and they will be aiming for success again this year.

The choir is a friendly group of people from Porthcawl and surrounding areas who enjoy singing in the Welsh language.

We are currently seeking new members who would enjoy singing in Welsh, tenors and basses especially welcome.

If you would like further information from the secretary of Cór Dysgwyr Porthcawl, the contact email is: cordporthcawl@gmail.com

Irene Collier

For all the latest news from your area -
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Swift getaway: CARAVAN STOLEN IN BLAENGARW



POLICE officers investigating the theft of a caravan are appealing for information.

A Swift Accord 490 was stolen from Mount Pleasant Road, Blaengarw, sometime between 11.05pm and 11.55pm on Tuesday, December 5.

A police spokesperson said: "We would particularly like to trace this distinctive van, which was seen in the area at the time of the incident."

"Anyone with any information should contact 101, quoting reference 1700478930."



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PORTHCAWL BAND ROCKS HOLY CROSS



OVER 90 people braved the weather on a rain-swept day to appreciate Cowbridge U3A's December entertainment, the Porthcawl Ukulele Band.

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The promised refreshments of mulled wine, mince pies and mini-stollen may have influenced the turnout.

The ukulele is a Hawaiian musical instrument, most usually associated in Great Britain with George Formby who popularised it in the 1940s and 1950s.

Cardiff-born Tessie O'Shea, who shared top billing with the Beatles on the famous Ed Sullivan TV show in 1964, was another ukulele exponent.

More recently, singer and songwriter Taylor Swift often accompanies herself by playing the ukulele.

The venue of Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge provided an intimate atmosphere as the six-strong band's playlist started with Johnny Cash's 'Ring of Fire', followed by 'Runaround Sue' (the U3A chair categorically denied that this song was the story of her younger days); 'When I'm 64' (do many under 30s know how to mend a fuse?); 'Under the Moon of Love', 'You've Got a Friend in Me' from the film Toy Story, 'Wonderful Land' by the Shadows and 'Honky Tonk Moon'.

There was a trio of festive songs, the classic 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas',

'Merry Christmas Everyone' by Cardiff's Shakin' Stevens and 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree', followed by 'Do You Love Me?', a hit by Brian Poole and the Tremeloes (some may remember that Decca Records signed them in preference to The Beatles); 'The Wonder of Love' and Jim Reeves' 'He'll Have to Go'.

The afternoon's excellent show reached a rousing climax with 'Burning Bridges' and 'Sweet Caroline' (Status Quo), with the finale being Tom Jones' 'Delilah', with full audience participation.

The Porthcawl Ukulele Band's previous visit to Cowbridge U3A was in December 2015 and it would be no surprise to see them return within the next two years – perhaps accompanied by members of Llantwit Major's ukulele group, some of whom were in the audience.

Next meeting: A talk by Phil Hughes, entitled 'The Monmouthshire Canal', at 2pm on Wednesday, January 10 in Cowbridge Town Hall. Visitors welcome (there is a small fee, which includes refreshments).

www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge

SPM



A cheque for £150 was presented to Sam's family. Image by Scenicgallery.shop.

Giving Sam the gift of speech for Christmas



Members of the Caerau Men's Shed were thrilled to meet Sam. Image by Scenicgallery.shop.

A LOCAL group of men have donated funds so that a little boy with Down's Syndrome can receive speech and language therapy.

A spokesman for the group explained: "On Friday, December 15, Sam Williams, his mum, grandmother and sister were invited to Noddfa Community Centre, Maesteg, to receive a cheque from Caerau Men's Shed for £150.

"Over the last three months, we have been raising money for little Samuel. In recent months, Sam's family

and supporters have been fundraising for him. He is two and a half years old and has Down Syndrome.

"Children with Down's Syndrome have poor muscle tone which impacts on their ability to learn to talk.

"Due to lack of funding in Wales NHS, we are having to fundraise so he can have private speech and language therapy which will enable him to learn a basic skill: talking."

The Williams family were delighted with the gift and thanked the group for their generosity.

FS

Christmas card competition winner a 'difficult choice' for MP



MP Chris Elmore (left) with competition winner, Joshua Simmonds.

OGMORE MP The three runners up were: Tigerlillie Jenkins (Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen), Holly Bater (Brynnau Primary School) and Gracie Jones Roberts (St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School).

The MP received over 500 entries from schools across the Ogmoe constituency and whittled these down to find a winner to feature on his card this year.

Mr Elmore commented: "I'm delighted by the artistic flair which has been demonstrated in the entries to my competition this year. It was so difficult to decide on the winner. There were around 50 which could have easily won."

Last week, Mr Elmore visited Pencoed Comprehensive School to present the designer of the winning entry, Joshua Simmonds, with his certificate and prize.

Go to
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the latest stories
www.glamorgangem.co.uk

Marie Curie's Support Line open over Christmas period

CHRISTMAS is a precious time for many families, but even more so for readers who may be cherishing every moment they get to spend with a beloved family member living with a terminal illness.

In fact this year, more than one million people in the UK are expected to be supporting a loved one who has a terminal illness over Christmas, while facing the possibility that this could be their last together.

Caring for someone at home can be a very rewarding but also an isolating experience. For some, it will be the first Christmas without their mum, dad, husband, wife or partner, which can also be a very difficult time.

People often say that they don't know where to turn to and don't know what help is available to them, which is why I am writing to tell you about our free, confidential Support Line – 0800 090 2309, which offers practical information and

emotional support about any aspect of terminal illness, as well as offering bereavement support too.

To help everyone who may need us during the festive period, our Support Line will be open from Sunday, December 24 – Tuesday, January 2.

Support Line open hours: December 24 (10am-4pm); December 25-26 (10am-2pm); December 27-29 (8am-6pm); December 30 (11am-5pm); December 31 (10am-4pm); January 1 (10am-2pm); January 2 (8am-6pm).

If you are in need of support, or have any questions about any aspect of terminal illness, the Marie Curie Information and Support Line – 0800 090 2309 – is here for you and can help you make the most of Christmas with your loved ones.

Additionally, our trained Support Line Officers are also on hand to offer support via our online chat service at mariecurie.org.uk/support.

Andrew Wilson-Mouasher, Divisional General Manager Marie Curie, Wales and Southern England.

Porthcawl RNLI mourns one of its stalwart members

ALL volunteers at Porthcawl RNLI lifeboat station were saddened to hear that John Williams had died earlier this week.

John was an original crew member when the RNLI re-established a lifeboat at Porthcawl in 1965. He went on to serve the station as Honorary Secretary, now known as Lifeboat Operations Manager, from 1986 until 1998.

Following his retirement from that role he continued volunteering at the station for many years in various capacities, one of which was a representative on the station committee.

John was married to Irene and as a couple they both supported the RNLI charity for many years. Irene was awarded the RNLI Gold Badge for her dedicated service in 2015. John was awarded a MBE for his service to the RNLI in 1997.

One of his major achievements came to fruition in 1996 when a new lifeboat station was built to house a new and larger lifeboat at Porthcawl.

Philip Missen, Porthcawl Lifeboat operations manager said: "Our thoughts today go out to Irene and the



John Williams.

family. John certainly was a RNLI stalwart and would still attend the lifeboat station most Sunday mornings up until just a couple of years ago when illness prevented his visits.

"Well into his late 70s John would cycle down from Nottage regularly, and when that got a bit tough he bought a battery powered bicycle.

"There are not many people who have served their community for so many years."

Local photographer nabs national prize



Siobhan Lock's Merlyn's Magic.

A PHOTO-GRAPHER from Bridgend had to beaten off stiff competition to snap up an EEF National Manufacturing Photography Award.

Siobhan Lock, aged 18, was named Best Young Photographer – sponsored by Liberty – at the recent final of EEF's manufacturing photography competition, held in the House of Commons.

As well as the title, Siobhan also walked away with a share of £5,000 in prizes.

Siobhan's winning image *Merlyn's Magic* was taken at Penderyn Distillery in Penderyn, Aberdare. The photograph is of Merlyn's silver award-winning cream liqueur which is distilled at Penderyn Distillery.

The competition, now in its eighth year, seeks creative images that capture the essence of modern manufacturing.

Photographs can portray any stage of

manufacturing from design, process and technology in action through to the finished product, and can cover traditional or high-tech sectors.

In addition to being a photographer, Siobhan is studying psychology at Cardiff University.

Siobhan Lock said: "Manufacturing is a fantastic subject matter, offering such diverse opportunities for dramatic or challenging shots. It's a very visual industry, but still requires a good eye, skill and patience to do it justice.

"It has been an honour seeing my work on display again in the House of Commons, alongside so many other fantastic images of modern manufacturing."

Dr Liam Fox, Secretary of State for International Trade, said: "As an international

economic department, we are committed to ensuring our manufacturing sector continues to grow, and these images highlight why the UK's modern,

dynamic and innovative manufacturing industry exports to markets around the world."

Stephen Phipson, CEO of EEF, said:

"From investing in the future by providing high-quality apprenticeships to standing right at the forefront of the fourth industrial revolution, manufacturing is the perfect illustration of British ingenuity, creativity and innovation.

"All the talented photographers shortlisted this year are to be congratulated on their incredible images that brilliantly reflect the dynamism of our sector."

The manufacturing photography competition will run again in 2018; details will be announced next year. For more information visit: www.eef.org.uk/photo.

CS

'JENKIN HENRY TEA' TAKES PLACE IN PORTHCAWL



Porthcawl residents at the Jenkin Henry Tea. Photo by David Swidenbank.

Sight loss charity looks for volunteers in Maesteg area

A LEADING sight loss charity is calling for volunteers to help run a Maesteg-based support group for people with macular disease.

The Macular Society is appealing for anyone living locally who would be willing to give up some of their time to help organise and run the group's monthly meetings, with help from the charity's services and volunteering team. The group is also looking for people to assist with general tasks such as booking guest speakers each month.

The Maesteg Macular Support Group meets on the second Monday of every month, from 10.30am-12.30pm, at the Heritage Suite, Maesteg Health and Wellbeing Centre, Hartsorn House, Neath Road, Maesteg (CF34 9EE).

It is one of more than 350 groups of its kind in the UK offering information, encouragement and friendship to people who are affected by macular disease. The group's next meeting will be held on Monday, January 8.

As our population ages, increasing numbers of people are being affected by age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the most common type of macular disease. AMD is the leading cause of sight loss in the UK, currently affecting more than 600,000 people.

Adele Francis, Macular Society regional manager, said: "The Maesteg Macular Support Group provides a lifeline for people living locally with sight loss. The peer support offered by the groups is absolutely vital – it's incredibly reassuring for people to know that there are others who truly understand their situation.

"With more than 200 people in the UK being diagnosed with macular disease every day, the existence of our support groups has never been more important. If you

have some free time and would be willing to help out once a month, either by helping to organise the meetings or assisting in some other way, we would love to hear from you.

"We will also be available to support our volunteers as they learn their new roles and provide any guidance they need going forward."

In Wales, the Macular Society has been able to establish and run new sight loss support groups and recruit volunteers across the country thanks

to more than £340,000 of funding from the Big Lottery Fund, made possible thanks to National Lottery players.

For more information about the Maesteg Macular Support Group contact Adele Francis on 01639 843236 / 07494 468007, or email adele.francis@macularsociety.org

For more information on macular degeneration, call the society's helpline on 0300 3030 111 or email help@macularsociety.org.

AS

PORTHCAWL Town Council's annual Jenkin Henry Tea took place recently on December 13 at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

It was once again well attended by 16 of the oldest inhabitants who were born and currently live in Porthcawl, along with the Town Mayor, Cllr Lorrie Desmond-Williams and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Norah Clarke.

Ceri Joseph from the Porthcawl Museum entertained the guests with a fun and informative slide show on the old Porthcawl railways. The guests then enjoyed an afternoon tea which concluded with

the Mayor presenting a gift to each of the guests on behalf of the Town Council.

The guests attended were Peter Henry, descendant of the late Jenkin Henry, Joan Hughes, Florence Bainbridge, Sylvia Thomas, Julia Morris, Rose Power, Gerald Taylor, David Kingdon, Jeane Rees, Rona Suter, Denis Power, Frederick Barkus, Valerie Thomas, Sheila Bingham, Brenda Bentley, Alun Davies, Ruth Davies and Marjory Lloyd-Williams.

If you were born and are currently living in Porthcawl and wish to be added to the Jenkin Henry Tea waiting list, contact Porthcawl Town Council on 01656 782215.

AS



A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM NEWBOLD SOLICITORS FOR JANUARY 2018



To celebrate our success in 2017

We have donated over £1,000 this Christmas to good causes, including hats, scarves and gloves for a local homeless shelter.

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- Business Excellence Award

A local firm with a social conscience

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St Michael's brings in Christmas season



From left: Sarah Laidler, Lucy Bridgeman, Mel Laidler, Denise Thomas, and Abbie Roberts.

Pharmacy and Fire Service work to improve safety

WELL Pharmacy in Victoria Street, Pontycymer, has collaborated with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to ensure elderly and vulnerable residents are protecting themselves against fire risks.

The service promotes free home fire-safety visits, where a member of the fire service visits the resident's home to assess the placement and efficacy of smoke alarms; check whether carbon monoxide monitors are present and assess electrical sockets for fire risks; as well as discussing other aspects of fire safety such as cooking habits and developing an action plan in case a fire should occur.

This service is available to everyone in the area, but the fire service is particularly targeting 'at risk' people such as the elderly and vulnerable.

Abbie Roberts, manager at Well Pharmacy Pontycymer said: "As a busy pharmacy, we are perfectly placed to promote this service to our customers, helping them to keep

healthy and safe. We offered customers leaflets about the service, and sent out information to high risk patients with their prescriptions.

"After three months, over 44 visits have been conducted to improve the safety of households in the area, which is a fantastic result."

Watch manager Mel Laidler from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said: "This initiative has allowed us to identify and help a number of 'at risk' individuals and families in the area.

"I would like to personally thank all the Well Pharmacy staff at the Pontycymer branch. It was their help and commitment that made the venture such a success.

"The partnership has been pivotal in increasing awareness of fire safety in Pontycymer and, following the positive outcome of this trial, we'd love to expand the service across other Well pharmacies to ensure we are protecting as many lives as possible."

Porthcawl Bridge Club round-up



DURING the past two weeks the club has thrived on the Christmas spirit.

Our usual Christmas party caterer, Jane Morgan, did us proud, providing an excellent buffet followed by a competition for the Barrie Robinson Salver (competed for annually in memory of our previous club chairman).

Prizes were presented to the North/South and East/West winners, with the higher percentage pair winning the salver.

The club also ran a 'Christmas Pudding' night, with the club presenting two puddings to the winners of an 'Irish Bingo' competition (Trish and Rob).

Latest results from the club are:

Saturday, December 2: First, Maurice and Margaret Harris; second, Roger Plant and Betty Longley. Thursday, December 7, Christmas party: First East/West and winners of the Barrie Robinson Salver – John Beard and Tony Haworth; first North/South – Colin and Hazel Heard.

Saturday, December 9: First, Terry Dolan and Pat Haworth; second, Roger Draper and Tony Haworth. Thursday, December 14: First, Tony Haworth and Keith Davison; second, Rob Charlesworth and John Beard.

The club meets twice a week, Saturday and Thursday, at the Awel-y-Mor centre 6.45pm-9.45pm, visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club call our secretary, Trish, on 01656 785794.

TH



The Colwinston choir.

ON December 1, a service was held to illuminate the church building and light the Christmas trees in St Michael's churchyard in Colwinston, and on the village green.

The service was followed by carol singing in the Sycamore Tree Inn.

The carol service on December 10 heard lessons read by Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP and representatives of various village organisations.

The 'Occasional Choir' sang a selection of old and new carols, including 'Seasons of Light' and John Rutter's 'Christmas Lullaby'.

On December 17 there was a church full of families to help with the assembly of the Christmas crib. The children's choir sang 'Listen to the News', 'Silent Night' and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'.

The younger children, after placing the figures in the crib, sang 'Away in a Manger' and 'Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Star'.

The final service for Christmas is Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm.

Happy Christmas from Colwinston!

Do you have a story? If so, then please contact us. Email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484.



Children joined in with the singing.

Mayor's coffee morning

THE doors to the Council Chamber were open to the public on November 3, when Cllr Idris Williams, the Mayor of Maesteg, held a coffee morning in aid of one of this year's nominated charities: Diabetes UK.

Representatives of Diabetes UK Cymru were also in attendance giving advice and providing leaflets to help anyone who wanted to know more about living with this condition.

Sandwiches and diabetic-friendly cakes (made using recipes from Diabetes UK) were on offer as well as the usual array of treats, and over £250 was raised.

The winner of the Shop Competition was Hair-VN, Commercial Street.

The runners-up were: Fich & Ramous; Valley Framing; Daisy Boos; and Extending Lengths.

AS



The Mayor with the winners at Hair-VN. Photos by Scenic Gallery.shop



At the coffee morning in aid of Diabetes UK.

Cefn Cribwr hosts 'Olympage Games'



From left: Dr Sandra Husbands, director of public health, Public Health Wales; Cllr Pam Davies, Huw Irranca-Davies, Mayor's Consort Tudor Davies and Daisy Cole, Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

MORE than 100 local older people and people with disabilities took part in the 'Olympage Games' sporting event at Bethlehem Life Centre in Cefn Cribwr recently.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's prevention and wellbeing department in partnership with Bridgend College and Sport Wales, teams from local community groups, care settings and day centres across the county borough channelled their inner 'Mo Farahs' to compete in a range of later life activities.

The games form part of a wellbeing initiative which has been rolled out in local care settings to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

With support from Sport Wales' Calls for Action programme and Older Persons strategy support, activity leaders have been coaching participants on the importance of keeping active with games such as bounce ball, new-age curling and basketball in the lead-up to the event.

Over 50 health and social care students from Bridgend College were also on hand to support the older people taking part on the day, helping to reduce the generation gap and encouraging the development of age-friendly communities.

The event was supported by a number of young ambassadors from local secondary schools and also by young people who had taken part in the LEAD project to develop leadership skills.

BCBC cabinet member for wellbeing and future generations, Cllr Dhanisha Patel who attended the event said: "The Olympage Games was absolutely fantastic! Thankfully, it's more focused on fun and friendship than



Participants doing the 'Robot'.



Cllr Dhanisha Patel with the Halo Ogmores/Court Gwalia group from Ogmores Vale.

competition – as I hoped it would be! It's been great to see people enjoying the combination of exercise and socialising.

"It's great to see an event that brings different communities and generations from across the county borough together. The participants are really proud to represent their communities and have enjoyed having fun with all the other groups."

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Sport Wales and Welsh Government for supporting us to bring the Olympage Games taking place. It's a fun way of encouraging older and disabled

people to stay active. "As well as fostering better physical health, this initiative helps improve the mental well-being of those involved by supporting them to be more socially active. It's also great to see students from Bridgend College helping all those who took part in the games, bringing the generations together."

Minister for Social Care, Huw Irranca-Davies and Daisy Cole, director of wellbeing and empowerment, Older People's Commissioner for Wales also attended the event.

Social Care Minister Huw Irranca-Davies said: "It's great to see events like the Olympage Games taking place. It's a fun way of encouraging older and disabled

people to stay active. "As well as fostering better physical health, this initiative helps improve the mental well-being of those involved by supporting them to be more socially active. It's also great to see students from Bridgend College helping all those who took part in the games, bringing the generations together."

"So my message to

older people across Wales is – take part in physical activities that you like and are interested in, and show people you're not too old to go for gold!"

For more information on the Olympage programme, contact the council's prevention and wellbeing department on 01656 815215 or email aypd@bridgend.gov.uk

Porthcawl regeneration is back on the agenda

THE much-debated issue of regeneration in Porthcawl could become clearer this week as a new plan is put forward.

Councillors at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) were considering a proposal on Wednesday, December 20 that, if approved, could pave the way for the next round of major regeneration in Porthcawl.

The decision was due to be made just after The GEM went to print.

Councillors were discussing purchasing the leasehold on an area of land near the seafront in order to remove conflicting interests, break a development impasse that could last for another 16 years, and enable new regeneration work to move forward and benefit the town.

Known locally as Salt Lake, the land has formed a crucial part of the council's phase one regeneration plans for a number of years and was previously marked for a superstore as well as leisure, retail, housing and community use.

For that particular plan, Tesco outbid all its supermarket rivals and the purchase price that the retail giant was prepared to pay would have paid for a great deal of infrastructure.

However, as a BCBC spokesman put it: "This did not progress following a reversal in the growth strategies of the major supermarket chains, leaving the land deadlocked over how it can be best used to serve the interests of the town."

The Evans families have held the lease for Salt Lake for over 80 years, and that lease does not run out for 16 years – in 2033.

There are stories circulating in Porthcawl suggesting that the lease was extended some years ago, but when asked about this by The GEM, a BCBC spokesman categorically denied this.

He said: "The long lease on Salt Lake was already in place when BCBC came into being in 1996, and the council has never granted any extensions on it."

"If the proposal has been approved by Council, the authority will use capital budget funds to purchase the interests of the leaseholders."

"Following two independent valuations of the site and consultation with the Wales Audit Office, the cost of this has been set at £3.4m – a figure which the authority would seek to recover as part of any subsequent development deal."

"It is likely that any future use of the land would involve a mix of housing, retail and leisure, and would also need to take account of extensive new infrastructure requirements such as highways, utilities, flood defences and more."

Speaking before the meeting, Council Leader Huw David said: "If members agree the proposal, it could prove to be an opportunity to break the deadlock over the Salt Lake land, and trigger regeneration on what must be one of the largest current waterfront development sites in the country."

If the plan has now received the green light, nothing will change in 2018. Salt Lake will continue to be a car park, because BCBC believes that the marketing of the site will take that period of time. Work could begin, however, in 2019.

The proposal was discussed at 3pm on Wednesday, December 20 in the Civic Offices at Angel Street, Bridgend – you can read the report here or at the council's website, www.bridgend.gov.uk

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR GWDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Observations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objections/representations may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an interest to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01656 640675.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALE) ORDER 2012
P17/1961/FUL Inclusion of agricultural land within curtilage of dwelling - Land rear of 51 High Street, Llanelli by Mr B & Mrs C Thomas.
P17/1961/FUL External alterations to provide new entrance lobbies and fire doors to facilitate an internal sub-division of the existing class A1 retail unit to create two class A1 retail units and associated internal works - Homebase, Pictorial Court Retail Park, Bridgend by British Airways Pension Trustees.
RESPOND BY 03/01/2018
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1980
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RESPOND BY 03/01/2018

DEVELOPMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS
P17/1961/FUL Change of use from shop to a coffee shop and tea house - 284a New Road, Porthcawl by Mrs A Vaughan.
CONSERVATION AREAS
P17/1961/FUL Installation of vinyl graphics to shop front - 11 Talbot Street, Meeting by Corporate Real Estate.
CONSERVATION AREAS
P17/1961/FUL Installation of vinyl graphics to shop front - 11 Talbot Street, Meeting by Corporate Real Estate.
APPLICATION AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING
P17/1961/FUL 450 dwellings, 1000sq.m., class B1 use, highway works, public open space - Land west of Meeting Road, Tondu by Mr & Mrs Mear Estate.
RESPOND BY: 18/01/2018

Mark Shephard Corporate Director Communities | Cyfarwyddwr Cymunedol
 Cymunedau: 21-12-2017

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CAERAU PRIMARY SCHOOL SAYS 'GOODBYE, MR PENNY'



Some 400 pupils said farewell to Mr Penny. Image by Scenicgallery.shop.

ON December 22, Oswald Penny – Ossie to his friends, but Mr Penny to generations of children in Caerau – will begin his final working day.

He will get up at a godforsaken hour, just as he has done for 25 years, to open up Caerau Primary School and make it warm, safe and inviting for all the staff and children.

A school spokesperson was keen to pay tribute to him: "Ossie will do all of the scheduled tasks, find and complete a few more, and then end his working life safe in the knowledge that he is admired, liked and respected by all of his colleagues and loved by legions of children – some small, and some not so small or very young anymore!"

"He was a caretaker (or site manager in today's language) of the community – first in

Blaencerau Junior School, where leaks were commonplace and a dodgy coal boiler could really upset him, and latterly at Caerau Primary School, where the children of Caerau gained the facilities they richly deserved.

"But he wasn't only the caretaker. He has acted as odd job man, carpenter, leak repairer, cheerleader, chief encourager, story listener and demon centre half in the annual staff versus year-6 football matches.

"As he makes his way towards his impending and richly-deserved retirement, he leaves with the overwhelming thanks of hundreds of staff and children.

"Thanks for keeping us safe, but more importantly, for being our Mr Penny, who never let us down. Enjoy your retirement, sir!" AS

Visit Santa in Maesteg Council chamber

CHILDREN can visit Santa Claus and his elves at Maesteg Council Chamber this Christmas.

Santa will be visiting up to December 23 (each day 3pm to 6pm) but on Saturday, December 23 from 10am to 4pm.

The cost to visit Santa's grotto is £2 per child.



Santa will be visiting Maesteg Council chamber this year. Photo by scenicgallery.shop

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Church holds festive concert

MEMBERS of Cowbridge Choral society with conductor Carole Lloyd and accompanist Rhys Wardhaugh held their Christmas concert in Holy Cross Church on December 16.

Also taking part were the pupils of Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School and harpist Ioan Wardhaugh.

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advertisement feature

Intestinal problems are no illusion

Scientists get to the bottom of it



Approximately 13 million people in the UK suffer from an irritated bowel, the so called, Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). In the past, people affected were repeatedly labelled as hypochondriacs. Wrongly so! Scientists have found a possible cause for an irritated bowel. But more importantly: they also found a promising relief for IBS called Kijimea IBS.

IBS: Only one's imagination?

People suffering from an irritated bowel are consistently plagued by bloating or flatulence, abdominal pain, or diarrhoea – sometimes alternately, oftentimes even simultaneously. For many people affected, a large part of their quality of life is lost. What is almost as severe: Many sufferers feel that their problems are not taken seriously. All too often they are labelled as hypochondriacs. Are they

only making up their intestinal problems? Nowadays, scientists say no.

Potential cause: an impaired intestinal barrier

More and more researchers today assume that the typical intestinal problems are caused by a damaged intestinal barrier. These damages enable pollutants and pathogens to penetrate the intestinal wall, triggering the typical symptoms such as bloating, diarrhoea, abdominal pain or flatulence. Luckily, researchers also discovered a unique bifidobacteria strain which can help (only in Kijimea IBS).



Effective treatment: a globally unique bifidobacterium

Under the direction of the renowned Prof. Dr. S. Guglielmetti, a team of scientists found out that the bifidobacteria strain B. bifidum MIMBb75, contained in Kijimea IBS (only available over the pharmacist counter), attaches itself directly to the intestinal wall. Symbolically, it covers the intestinal wall like a plaster. The effectiveness of Kijimea IBS has been shown

in a clinical study. During the study most IBS symptoms did not only significantly improve due to Kijimea IBS, but in some cases also disappeared. Furthermore, the bifidobacterium included in Kijimea IBS is the only one worldwide that simultaneously showed an increase in the quality of life of IBS patients.

Now available in the UK – Kijimea IBS

In many other countries, Kijimea IBS has already proven to be successful. This product is now available in the UK, too. Kijimea IBS is prescription free available over the pharmacist counter and has no known side effects.

Kijimea IBS is brand-new!

- It is only available by order over the pharmacist counter at
- your independent pharmacy or Superdrug pharmacy
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- online at www.chemistdirect.co.uk and www.amazon.co.uk

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SANDS helpline will be open Christmas Day and New Year

SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death charity) knows that the festive period can be a particularly difficult and lonely time for parents who experienced the death of a baby.

For this reason, the charity has extended the opening hours of its freephone helpline to include Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The confidential helpline provides a safe place for anyone

affected by the death of a baby to seek comfort and support. The charity's experienced bereavement support team is there to listen and signpost to further help.

Dr Clea Harmer, chief executive of Sands said: "Bereaved parents tell us that Christmas can be highly emotional for them as they spend time with their close friends and families and remember their babies who have died. So we have extended the opening hours of our helpline at a time they may need us the most."

"I would urge anyone who has been affected by the death of a baby to get in touch if they want to talk to us over the festive period. We are

dedicated to providing emotional support and information right from the early hours after a baby's death, through to the weeks, months and years ahead."

The Sands Helpline will open during the following hours: Christmas Day (Monday, December 25) – 10am-3pm and 7pm-9pm;

Boxing Day (Tuesday, December 26) – 10am-3pm and 7pm-9pm;

Wednesday, December 27 to Friday, December 29 – normal helpline hours – 9.30am-5.30pm;

New Year's Day (Monday, January 1) – 10am-3pm;

Tuesday, January 2 – normal helpline hours resume – 9.30am-5.30pm.

The Sands Freephone Helpline number is 0808 164 3332. Bereaved parents and their families can also email the Helpline if they would prefer at: helpline@sands.org.uk. For further information on the different types of support offered by Sands visit: www.sands.org.uk/support/how-we-offer-support.



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Blood Bikes Wales bowled over by club's support



Pencoe Bowls Club members Charlotte Pearson and Tom Pearson presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Andrew Morgan and Martin Ricketts of Blood Bikes Wales.

EARLIER this year, members of Pencoe Bowls Club nominated Blood Bikes Wales as their charity for 2017.

Andrew Morgan and Martin Ricketts of Blood Bikes Wales, both volunteer motorcycle riders, said: "We are so grateful to the members of the Pencoe Bowls Club for their fantastic backing. This money will help us to continue our support of local hospitals

and special care baby units."

Charlotte Pearson, charity secretary of the club, said: "Our members are delighted to assist such a worthy cause."

"The work the Blood Bikers do goes largely unnoticed, but can make all the difference to seriously ill patients in hospital."

AM

DONATIONS GIVEN TO LOCAL FOODBANK

LYNDSAY, Nicki and Ben of the Vale Funeral Service wish to thank the community for yet another amazing contribution towards their selection box appeal.

Lyndsay said: "Over 218 selection boxes (and still more) have kindly been donated by members of the community and as always, they never let us down and we are so proud."

"We are privileged to play an active part supporting our local community causes and hope that the Vale Foodbank will bring festive cheer to accommodate families throughout the Vale with these selection boxes."

"Thank you from our hearts, and our thoughts and prayers are with everyone at this time."



Lyndsay Ellis (right) with members of the Vale Foodbank.

Outline planning approved for new cancer centre

CARDIFF County Council's Planning Committee has approved Velindre NHS Trust's outline planning application for a new Velindre Cancer Centre.

On December 13, Cardiff County Council's Planning Committee met to consider the outline planning application to build a new Cancer Centre in Whitchurch, Cardiff.

Steve Ham, chief executive of Velindre NHS Trust said: "The approval of our outline planning application is a significant milestone for

the population we serve across south east Wales.

"Although it has served us and our patients well for more than 60 years, our current cancer centre is no longer fit for purpose. More and more people across the region require cancer treatment and our care. Because of that continued increase in demand on our services, we must do things differently."

"As we move in to this next phase, we're looking forward to continuing to work with our patients and our local community to ensure the new Velindre Cancer Centre and its location can benefit everyone."

Harris Pye sold

THE Harris Pye Engineering Group, specialists in the provision of repairs, upgrades and conversions to the marine, offshore oil and gas, and associated onshore industrial sectors, has been acquired by the Joulon Group.

In the Vale, Harris Pye operates from a trading estate at Llandow.

Joulon was created in partnership with KKR, the global investment firm to acquire well-established companies globally. The investment in Joulon comes from multiple funds managed or advised by KKR.

"We are really excited to have Harris Pye as part of Joulon Group. Harris Pye's extensive global presence and expertise in executing large distributed complex projects across any asset

class is an invaluable enhancement to our capabilities," said Abhishek Kumar, vice chairman and group CEO of Joulon.

"This is very much a win win situation," explained Mark Prendergast, Harris Pye's chief executive. "It is very much 'business as usual' for the group with its global team of 1,700 based in 17 facilities and offices around the world."

"The network stretches from Brazil to Japan, North America and Canada to Australia and includes major workshops in Wales, Brazil, Sharjah and Singapore. Under the new ownership Mark Prendergast remains CEO, Chris David is chief operating officer, and David Walters is chief financial officer. Additional Harris Pye board members will be announced shortly."



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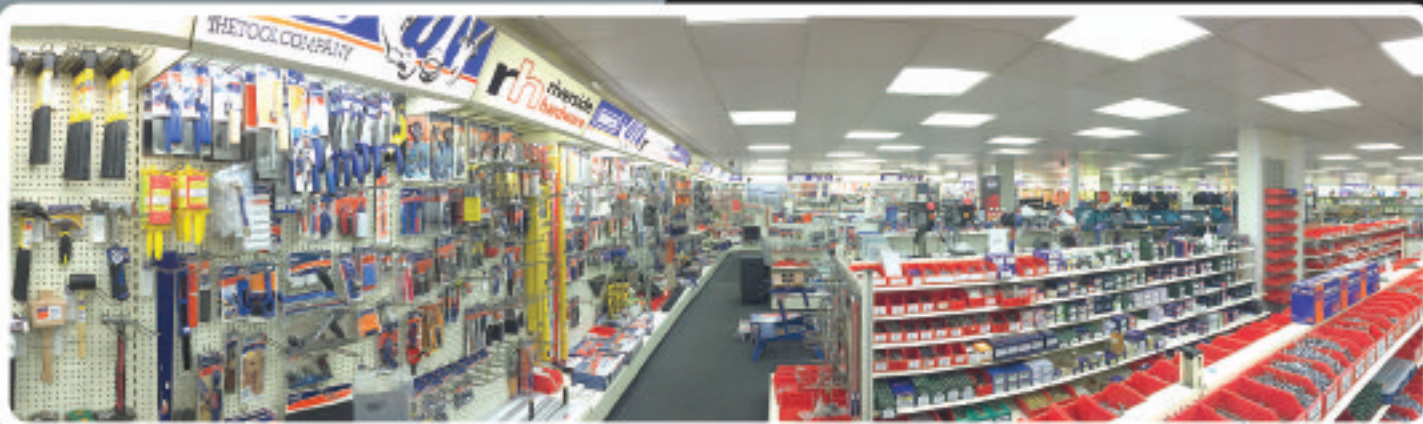
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PORTHCAWL RNLI ARE TO THE RESCUE AS SANTA HAS A MISHAP!

THERE were dramatic scenes at Porthcawl Marina on Saturday evening when hundreds of children, parents and grandparents gathered to see Santa do a practice fly over of the town in readiness for Christmas day.

Unfortunately he fell from his sleigh just as his reindeer turned sharply when passing the lighthouse.

Singer, 11-year-old Taya Beechey entertained the gathering crowd while they waited patiently to see Santa. Meanwhile Porthcawl lifeboat volunteers were alerted to reports of Santa's accident.

Within minutes the Atlantic 85 *Rose of the Shires* was launched in darkness to search for Santa. Porthcawl Coastguard Unit arrived on scene to assist in the search around the harbour area.

Fortunately Santa was found clinging to the green marker pole at the entrance to the harbour area and was quickly brought aboard the lifeboat.

Unhurt following his accident, he showed his magical talents by taking the helm and steering the lifeboat into the marina where the crew helped him onto one of the pontoons.

He then stood admiring all the boats that had Christmas lights,



Singer Russell Jones and his mum with Father (and Mother) Christmas.

each one helping to guide him around when he comes back to Porthcawl with his sleigh loaded with presents.

From the marina, he walked to the lifeboat station where Mother Christmas was waiting to see him.

They both then welcomed the children who had waited to see Santa and his reindeer fly over Porthcawl.

During Santa's short stay all visitors were entertained at the lifeboat station with Christmas songs by Russell Jones of *X Factor* fame.

Santa later said: "I was so grateful to everyone who helped to rescue me so quickly. I have such a busy week ahead making sure all my helpers wrap all the presents and load the sleigh ready for Christmas. I was just flying over Porthcawl to

check my route when Rudolf, was frightened by a large wave hitting the breakwater, that led him and the other reindeer into a very sharp turn.

"Unfortunately I wasn't wearing my seat belt and I was thrown out of the sleigh, so children always remember to fasten your seatbelts when you travel too."

Lifeboat Deputy Launch Authority, Aileen Jones MBE, said: "People don't normally associate our lifeboats being launched to rescue Santa. He was extremely lucky that the crew found him quickly before he got cold.

"Once back in the lifeboat station we gave him a warm drink and some mince pies we had ready for Christmas.

"Santa was so grateful following his rescue he



Local girl Taya Beechey entertained the crowds.

decided to board our smaller lifeboat *Jean Ryall* and have photographs with the children and give them all a small gift.

"Later that evening one of our volunteer crew saw Rudolf lead the reindeer and land on the slipway where Santa was able to take off again and continue to check his

route ready for his busiest night of the year." You can support Porthcawl RNLI charity and the volunteer crew this Christmas by texting: NOEL70 (followed by amount eg. £2, £5, £10) to 70070. Photos by Porthcawl RNLI. Report by Ian Stroud.



Santa clings on to the marker pole.

Big break for Bridgend band?



Dylan Wictome (bass), Will Davies (lead guitar), Aaron Nicholas (vocals/guitar) and James Lee (drums) celebrate winning Firestone's Battle of the Bands.

AN unsigned Bridgend rock band is dreaming of a massive fan-base and headline gigs at the Millennium Stadium after beating more than 300 grassroots entries to win Firestone's Battle of the Bands competition.

Fire Fences, formed by four Bridgend Brynteg school mates in 2013, have made their biggest breakthrough to date by triumphing in the nationwide competition, beating Worcestershire band Nuns of the Tundra and Suffolk hip-hop act EL-Emcee.

The final, at the British and Irish Modern Music Institute (BIMM) in Birmingham on December 14 was screened live on Firestone's Facebook page to 50,000 people, with a five-strong judging panel from Orange, Professional Music Technology, BIMM, Arena Birmingham and Firestone agreeing on the winning act.

Fire Fences can now look forward to more than £2,000 worth of Orange Amplification equipment and studio time worth £1,500, along with the honour of being Firestone's Battle of the Bands champions.

The band, comprising Dylan Wictome (bass), Will Davies (lead guitar), Aaron Nicholas (vocals / guitar) and James Lee (drums) have already played in the Millennium Stadium before Wales' autumn international with Australia and want to go back there again one day, in front of a sell-out crowd.

Aaron said: "Every band started somewhere, so why not? To win Battle of the Bands is a huge confidence boost for us, as so many people voted for us along the way and a huge audience tuned in on Facebook to see us.

"We couldn't be happier! We feel we are on people's radars now and feel like we're being appreciated for

what we are doing which is a nice feeling."

Abbie McCarthy from BBC Radio 1 presented the Battle of the Bands final and was fulsome in her praise for the three acts.

She said: "Competitions like these are vital for aspiring musicians. Firestone have provided unsigned artists with a platform to perform, along with the opportunity to gain some valuable experience.

"Any event that helps some stars of the future to make a name for themselves can only be a great thing. After seeing the three finalists play, they should all be extremely proud of themselves."

Fire Fences played two pieces – 'Can't Keep Up' and 'House of Cards' – and wowed judges with their vibrant energy and toe-tapping sound, which has been compared to the Arctic Monkeys.

The Cardiff University students released a new single on December 15, and will release another in January and are aiming to release six singles in total in 2018.

Firestone's brand manager Stuart Atfield said: "We have been so impressed with the quality of entries and the decision was an extremely difficult one to make.

"Each act offered something completely different but Fire Fences' performance was extremely impressive and their sound was so catchy. We can't wait to hear more from them in the future and hope that we've put them on a journey to the big time."

To watch Fire Fences, EL-Emcee and Nuns of the Tundra's performances at the final, visit www.facebook.com/firestone.UK/

Bridgend Bridge Club latest news



A 'Happy Christmas' toast from Bridgend Bridge Club.

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

December 13: First, Graham Norris and Dave Lea; second, Norma and David Newman; third, Jennie Vaughan and Debbie Lea.

The winners on handicap were Graham Norris and Dave Lea.

December 13: First, Chris Rawlings and John Henson; second, Steve Burgoyne and Glyn Williams; third, John and Chris Evans.

The winners on handicap were Dilys Bowser and V Irene Thomas.

December 14: First, Linda Pincock and Denis Mottram; second, Jane Brook and Wendy Williams; third, Dave Reed and Jim Hume.

The winners on handicap were Dave Reed and Jim Hume.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm; to enable a prompt start it helps if

players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. Lessons for beginners are being run by Steve Burgoyne.

Please note there will be no bridge on Wednesday, December 27.

For further information about the lessons and any other of the club activities, contact Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Out & About with The GEM

Advertising feature Slimming World Local expert promises a slimmer new you for 2018!

PEOPLE in St Athan can look forward to a healthier, happier New Year with the help of a local slimming expert.

This January Helen Waite, who runs three Slimming World groups in Rhose and Llantwit Major, is delighted to reveal a brand new Saturday morning group in St Athan from January 6.

Helen first became a consultant 13 years ago and is thrilled to be

opening this group in her own village.

She said: "Slimming World has been helping people to lose weight for more than 48 years so we've learned a thing or two about supporting slimmers to achieve their dreams, including a deep understanding of the emotional as well as the practical aspects of losing weight.

"If anyone is pledging to slim down and become more active in 2018, Slimming World is the place to be to make sure their

dreams turn into a reality.

"This year we've created a brand new booklet for members that includes all of our very best advice – all based on our decades of experience. It combines top tips for a fabulous first week weight loss, simple shopping advice, and small swaps that will make a big difference to your waistline and help you to form healthy habits that will last a lifetime, all as well as introducing members to

Slimming World's healthy eating plan, Food Optimising."

Helen says that people who embark on New Year diets fail within days or weeks, because they follow plans that are too restrictive and leave them feeling hungry or deprived so they're impossible to keep up.

"But Slimming World's Food Optimising plan isn't a diet and you don't have to count and measure everything you eat.

"Instead, by satisfying your appetite on everyday foods like fruit and veg, pasta, rice, potatoes, lean meat and fish, which are filling yet naturally low in calories, it's possible to lose weight without ever having to go hungry or feel deprived."

This January every new member will receive a copy of the 'Get Set For Success' booklet free, when they join their local group.

Combined with the support of the group, this slimming 'bible' will give everyone who walks through the doors the very best possible chance of a great first week weight loss, meaning they're more likely to achieve their weight-loss target, according to Slimming World's research.

As well as this package, new members will get the support of highly-trained consultant Helen: "I've lost my weight with Slimming World myself so I know exactly what it feels like, from feeling nervous about walking into the group on that first day through to the joy of reaching your weight-loss target.

"Everyone in the group is there for the same reason – to lose weight and become happier and healthier – and each week we help and support each other by sharing advice, ideas, tips, recipes and more."

Anyone who'd like to join the St Athan Slimming World group can pop along every Saturday at 9.30am at the Gathering Place, Flemingston Road, or for more information call Helen on 01446 750738, or 07968 355119.



New Group
From Saturday 6th Jan
Saturdays 9.30am
The Gathering Place,
Flemington Road, St Athan
Helen 07968 355119

New Venue
From 11th Jan (Please
phone Nicola for current
group details). Thursday
9.30am and 11.30am.
Memorial Hall, Cenotaph
Entrance, Gladstone Road,
Barry.
Nicola 07951 510871

Friday 9.30am
Ebenezer Church (opposite
surgery) North Cornelly.
Rachel 07779 956233

Mondays 5.30pm
Cadroxton Moors Community
Centre, Rear of Edmond
Place, Cardiff Road, Barry
Karl 07411 621866

**Mondays 5.30pm
and 7.30pm**
Celtic Way Community
Centre, Rhose
Helen 01446 750738/
07968 355119

**Tuesdays 9.30am
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Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd,
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Lane East, Llantwit Major
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Tuesdays 6.30pm
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Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola 07951 510871

Tuesdays 9.30am
Gilgal Church Hall,
Woodland Avenue,
Porthcawl, CF36 5HU
Beverley 07912 172674

**Wednesdays 4.45pm
and 6.45pm**
St Francis Millennium
Centre, Park Road,
Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annmarie 07837 497523

**Wednesday 5.30pm
and 7.30pm**
Buttrills Community Centre,
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Martin 07827 445570

**Wednesday 3.30pm,
5.30pm, and 7.30pm**
Bridgend Deaf Club,
Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen 07714 170908

**Wednesdays 9.30am
and 11.30am**
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Linda 01446 761150/
07809 901008

Wednesdays 5.00pm
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Thursdays 5.30pm
Highlight Park Community
Centre, Barry
Annmarie 07837 497523

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and 7.30pm**
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Common Road, Dinas Powys
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Thursdays 9.30am
Talbot Community Centre,
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Millie 07765 040006

**Thursdays 3.30pm, 5.30pm
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Talbot Community Centre,
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Thursdays 5.30pm
St. Davids Church Hall,
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Donna 07790 797008

Thursdays 9.30am
Nolton Church Hall, Merthyr
Mawr Road, Bridgend
Donna 07790 797008

**Fridays 9.30am
and 11.30am**
The Cabin (Next to Swim
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Cross Common Road,
Dinas Powys
Linda 01446 761150/
07809 901008

**Saturdays 7.30am,
9.30am and 11.30am**
Buttrills Community Centre,
North Walk, Barry
Martin 07827 445570

**Saturday 8.00am &
10.00am**
All Saints Church Hall,
Victoria Square, Penarth
Linda 01446 761150/
07809 901008

The Last Jedi is a sublime, epic and wondrous film...

WHILE the Star Wars franchise has never truly gone away, it received a hyperspace-like boost when JJ Abrams' The Force Awakens (Episode VII of the main saga) was released in 2015.

With returns for classic characters like Han Solo and General Leia, and new characters like Daisy Ridley's Rey, John Boyega's Finn and more, it was a gigantic success, and, eager to find out where the new trilogy goes from there, Episode VIII: The Last Jedi now hits the big screen.

The Force Awakens ended with Rey (Daisy Ridley), whose force powers awoke during the events of that film, tracking down the self-exiled Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) in order to be trained in the ways of the Jedi.

Luke is reticent to empower Rey's abilities even more, but with the danger of the First Order on the horizon, led by the mysterious Snoke (Andy Serkis) and his apprentice Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), will Luke unleash Rey's powers – and what will the effect be...?

The Force Awakens was a film that re-established Star Wars as a franchise, its familiarity of old characters and the introduction of new ones both reassuring fans of the series while taking a baby step into a new cinematic world.

If you consider that film to be a palate cleanser, then The Last Jedi is the main course – and what a sumptuous, dense and delicious thing it is, a film that marries the familiar beats with unexpected ones, that maintains the tone of the series but is bold and brave enough to take it in directions that you wouldn't necessarily expect.

JJ Abrams was a safe pair of hands to bring Star Wars out of hibernation, a director well-versed and steeped in turning nostalgia into something new.

Rian Johnson is a director who has proved over his filmography to be one who is keen to take chances (Brick,

Looper), to be daring, and that was just what The Last Jedi needed to be, Johnson (who wrote the script as well as directing) has fashioned a film that does that in spades while never losing sight of its identity.

His direction is marvellous, the epic scope and scale you would expect from the series shot with a keen eye and there are moments of real visual beauty, starships exploding in silence, suns setting, that truly convey the scale of what is unfolding.

His script is also wonderful, paying lip service to the past while steadfastly looking towards the future; given how close The Force Awakens cleaved to A New Hope, logic would dictate that this film would marry up with The Empire Strikes Back. And while it certainly does pivot into darker moments, it refuses to conform to those expectations.

The story moves in smart ways, the character beats superb as we realise that not everything (and indeed everyone) is as cut and dried as you would expect, while themes of war profiteering and who is really fighting on the right side gives the usual 'good guys versus bad guys' conflict a different twist.

Having waited nearly all of The Force Awakens to be reacquainted with him, Mark Hamill delivers an outstanding turn as Luke Skywalker, a hermit afraid of reigniting the Jedi due to a dark moment in his past. Hamill's craggy looks give a real sense of



by
GARETH JAMIESON
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Skywalker's descent into his own personal black hole and his arc strikes at the heart of the film.

The sadness surrounding Carrie Fisher's death makes her final turn as Leia all that more poignant, while Daisy Ridley grows in stature in the same way as her character, her performance assured as she shares the screen primarily with Hamill.

Adam Driver's performance as Kylo Ren is excellent, the internal conflict wholly apparent between the light side and the dark side of the force, and he and Ridley share some excellent moments that are both superbly acted but also hint at where the next film may take us.

John Boyega gets saddled with a flat subplot involving picking up a safecracker from the Star Wars universe's version of Las Vegas, Canto Bight, but his partner in that enterprise, Kelly Marie Tran's Rose, makes for a pleasing foil, while the

likes of Laura Dern and Benicio Del Toro bring gravitas in small but pivotal roles.

It's not wholly perfect, the 152-minute running time definitely feeling a little sag in the middle section (primarily down to Finn and Rose's unengaging sojourn to Canto Bight) but it ramps up towards its conclusion, delivering emotional reveals and epic battle sequences that leave you barely coming up for air.

It's a gloriously epic and wondrous film, one that pushes the Star Wars universe firmly forward, leaving the appetite truly whetted for the concluding part of this new trilogy (to be directed by the returning Abrams); The Last Jedi is the sort of grandiose film that you can delight in, and is without doubt one of the finest films in the franchise thus far.

VERDICT: Back bigger and better than The Empire Strikes Back, Star Wars: The Last Jedi is an excellent film, one that plays by franchise rules but takes the story and characters into unexpected places and takes the series itself into new territory. Superbly marshalled by Rian Johnson, and with great performances, most notably Mark Hamill's turn as Luke Skywalker, this is an epic and incredible film.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: The Empire Strikes Back (1980), Loper (2012).

*I'd like to wish all GEM readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year, and see you in 2018 where I'll take a look back at my top ten films of 2017!

WHAT'S ON - NEWS IN BRIEF

Cemetery Christmas Day
THE Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Chapel will be open for visitors this Sunday (Christmas Eve), between 9am and 3pm, when the Friends of the Cemetery hold their annual Christmas memorial day.

Barry Town Council Mayor, Cllr Nic Hodges, said: "We would like to offer an open invitation to all residents of Barry and beyond to come to the cemetery chapel this Sunday, where visitors can light a candle in memory of a loved one at the cemetery."

"Tea, coffee and mince pies will be available, with any donations going towards the upkeep and improvements of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, Barry's municipal cemetery, which first

opened its gates in 1889."

Chapel's Christmas Memorial
A LIVING Well with Arthritis Support Group has started in Barry at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30pm to 4pm.

If you have arthritis, have been recently diagnosed or have been living with it for some time, there will be information and support on diet, medication, Tai Chi and Yoga.

Sessions will be held monthly on the first Tuesday each month. The next session takes place on Tuesday, January 2. Contact 01446 732385 or May on 07711 3669456 for further information, or just come along to the session.

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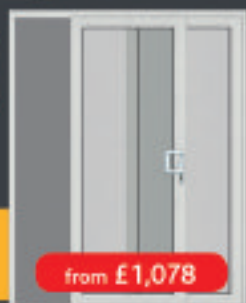
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Banish the bleak mid-Winter by Sara Milne

COLOUR can be sadly lacking from gardens in January, but a simple way of bringing a little bit of sunshine back into the outdoors is by using containers packed with hardy plants that provide colour, texture and a good few weeks of interest.

Make sure you place them where they can be seen – in areas close to your home, in view of visitors or in places where they can be appreciated from the warmth and comfort of indoors – such as outside the kitchen window or on a window sill.

The upside of colder weather is that flowers last longer and even the humble evergreen such as bay, laurel or



A potted hellebore.

viburnum looks stunning edged with a touch of winter morning frost. Some of the best

plants for winter colour are classic favourites that still bring a smile to the face in deep mid

winter and, outside of prolonged snow and rain, can survive into the spring.

Helleborus niger – also known as the Christmas Rose – is a stylish starting point and has a purity of colour that makes it ideal as a single planting or as a centre piece in a mixed container. It has clusters of saucer-shaped flowers in white, pink, green, mauve or smoky purple.

The winter flowering *Viola* (looking like a mini pansy) is a really cheerful choice for pots and planters and comes in a variety of colours from white through to yellow, orange, mauve, purple and blue.

Erica (also known as Heather) brings a hint of the highlands to any seasonal container with its stems of delicate flowers in white, pink,

red, magenta or purple.

Before you get going on planting make sure you take on board these tips from the Royal Horticultural Society for growing in containers during winter:

Remember that plants grow very little in winter, so make sure you start with good-sized plants and use sufficient numbers of plants for the size of container to make an impact from the start.

Position your container where it will get as much light as possible during the winter months to ensure plant foliage remains green and healthy.

Water containers carefully in winter, making sure you check the compost regularly, as it can soon dry out in mild spells. Smaller plants are more susceptible to over or underwatering.

It is not necessary to feed container plants during the winter.

Raise containers off the ground on pot feet or bricks to aid drainage and help prevent the freezing conditions that cause pots to crack.

Choose frost-proof terracotta or containers made of plastic, fibreglass or wood. Use bubble wrap containers in severe weather to reduce damage to plant roots.

Farming Matters

Column by Rachel Saunders, Farmers' Union of Wales

I CAN'T believe that this is my final column for 2017!

And what a year it has been – Brexit, bovine TB and quarantine units, as well as the Welsh Government's 'Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources' consultation and NVZs have been high on the agenda, and it is probably fair to say that these topics will continue to occupy us in the year to come.

With just a few days to go until Christmas, many of us will be busy making the final arrangements for the big day and as I prepare the last bits here in the office before we close for this year, I reflect on Christmases past.

I haven't always been involved in farming – 10 years ago my Christmas preparation involved clearing my desk in work and organising as many social events as I could with friends which involved eating and drinking. Christmas Eve involved general relaxation, meeting up with family and the odd piece of last minute shopping.

Then my eyes were opened to the world of



Rachel Saunders of the FUW.

farming, especially over the Christmas period. The mad rush by farmers to cram in as much work as humanly possible in one day in the hope that they could have a few hours off on Christmas Day was certainly a shock.

But it means that farming families appreciate family time together even more over Christmas, and isn't that what the festive season is all about. It also makes Christmas dinner taste that extra bit better

as we know the hard work that goes into producing it.

Looking ahead to 2018, I can assure members that the FUW will continue to be at the forefront of the fight to protect the interests of Wales' farming families and rural communities, while holding to account those who gave assurances and made promises to the industry ahead of the EU referendum.

I would like to thank all of our staff and officials for their continued effort and hard work throughout the year and each and every one of our members, who through their membership and support, contribute to a stronger, more successful voice for Wales' agricultural industry.

On a final note, I would like to remind members that the county office is closed from December 21 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

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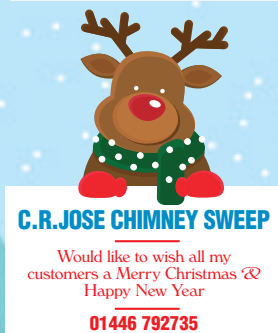
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Fine for rogue trader who took £3,000 from Brackla resident

TRADING Standards teams across Bridgend county borough, Cardiff and the Vale are issuing urgent warnings to residents about making upfront payments to tradesmen who call at their homes.

The advice follows the prosecution of a local trader who was paid £3,000 upfront by a Brackla resident after offering to lay handstanding at their property.

Craig Hearne, from Sarn, had previously completed work to the resident's garden and also came recommended by a neighbour.

A full payment of £3,000 was made by the resident via a bank transfer to Mr Hearne in May 2016, despite him failing to issue any paperwork for the work, which is a legal requirement.

Although the resident kept in touch with Mr Hearne via phone and text, and he kept making promises to start the work, he never returned to their property.

Mr Hearne then claimed that he had sold the business to someone else and that he would pass on the new owner's contact details, but he never did so.

Mr Hearne could no longer be contacted after that point so, in August 2016, the resident reported their complaint to Shared Regulatory Services – the body responsible for Trading Standards in Bridgend county borough, Cardiff and the Vale.

The Chair of the Joint Committee for Shared Regulatory Services, Councillor Dhanisha Patel said: "Our

officers tried to contact Mr Hearne by phone but there was never any answer. Messages were also left for him to contact us, but he failed to respond.

"Letters to Mr Hearne went unanswered and he failed to turn up for two interviews, while on two occasions when officers visited him at home, there was no answer. We did everything we could before taking the next steps."

The remaining option was to prosecute Mr Hearne but he failed to turn up to court on several occasions so a warrant was issued for his arrest.

On December 7, 2017 he was arrested in Neath and taken into custody. He appeared in Cardiff Magistrates Court that afternoon and pleaded guilty to all charges.

Mr Hearne was fined £500 and was ordered to refund the complainant's £3,000 in full as well as victim surcharge and legal costs.

Cllr Patel added: "This case serves as a warning to residents to avoid paying such large amounts of money to traders up front, especially where there is no written contract in place.

"Any reasonable trader will ask for a small percentage to be paid up front with further payments in stages or upon completion.

"Keep your money safe in your bank account until you are satisfied that the work has been completed and contact us if you believe you've been pressured into making a payment."

SANTA'S DELIVERY TO LOCAL HOSPITAL

BRIDGEND'S Hospital Radio would like to say a massive thank you to all shoppers at Sainsbury's in Bridgend who have donated presents to the store.

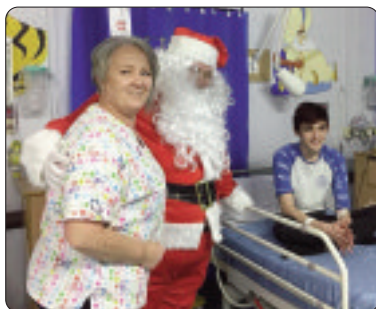
All the gifts were wrapped by Jackie Thomas and her elves at the Bridgend store and delivered to children who spend some time at the children's ward this Christmas.

We were privileged to call into the children's ward at The Princess of Wales Hospital on December 12 to give out some gifts to children currently staying at the hospital – Santa even distributed some of the gifts.

The rest of the gifts will remain on the ward and be given to children as and when they are admitted over the Christmas period.

Bridgend's Hospital Radio are delighted to be Sainsbury's local charity of the year in Bridgend this year.

BHR are always looking for volunteers to join their amazing team, whether a radio presenter, request collector or general volunteer, so please get in touch. See www.bhr.wales or email studio@bhr.wales.



Everyone at Bridgend's Hospital Radio would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

OWAIN WHITE

'Support for proposal to develop Welsh-language provision for pupils with autism' claims BCBC

PUPILS, staff and parents have reacted positively to a proposal to establish specialist learning facilities for Welsh-speaking pupils with autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd a Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) spokesperson said on December 14.

A specialist learning resource centre at the school would enable Welsh-speaking pupils with a diagnosis of ASD to have their needs met through their chosen language while continuing to have access to mainstream curriculum.

The resource would cater for a maximum of 12 children, and a similar provision has already been established for English-medium pupils at Maesteg Comprehensive School.

BCBC recently carried out a public consultation on the proposal, inviting the

views of pupils, parents, teachers, governors, the wider community and Estyn.

The plans were discussed at a series of drop-in sessions where any queries could be answered. The feedback was positive, with all parties recognising the benefits for young people with a diagnosis of ASD to receive continuity of education through the medium of Welsh and keep socialising with their classmates from primary school.

The council has published the full consultation report at www.bridgend.gov.uk [see link below] and has issued a statutory notice inviting any formal written objections, which need to be made before 21 December.

If everything is rubber stamped, the specialist learning facilities could open at the school as early as 1 February 2018.

Cllr Charles Smith, the council's Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, said: "I'm pleased that such support has been shown so far for this proposal which will enable young people

with a diagnosis of ASD to continue their education and development alongside their peers through the medium of Welsh.

"A related proposal will also soon be considered to set up a key stage 2 learning resource centre for ASD at one of the county borough's four partner Welsh-medium primary schools."

The consultation document can be read at <https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s13935/171128%20Outcome%20of%20Consultation%20report%20for%20LRC%20in%20YGG%20Llangynwyd%20Appendix%201.pdf?LL=0>.

Were you part of the consultation process as part of the 'wider community' or one of the other categories? Will you or a member of your family be affected by this proposal? The GEM would like to receive your thoughts and correspondence.

Please write, with full contact details, to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk.

Boys' Brigade members learn about Christmas



THE youngest members of 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade, the Anchors, have been thinking about the meaning of Christmas.

They have been watching how the Advent candles have been lit in the church week by week and how the church Nativity scene has been added

to.

They also worked together to create a poster of the Christmas story to put in Tabernacle Presbyterian Church.

All sections meet this week for their Christmas parties before

the break – we are looking forward to having lots of fun!

If anyone would like further information about Boys' Brigade in Llantwit Major contact Debbie on (01446) 796208.

Debbie Chapman

Tony receives Queen's medal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tony said: "Of all lifesaving skills in the 1980s when he supported Dr Richard Lewis with the Save a Life campaign, and has delivered training in basic life support and effective use of a defibrillator to more than 20,000 volunteers

In 2003, his contribution to pre-hospital care was recognised by the British Heart Foundation when he became the first paramedic in the United Kingdom to be funded by the charity to carry out his role.

He was also involved in the successful launch of a Welsh Government-funded Public Access Defibrillator initiative.

friends in Uganda."

Tony began teaching lifesaving skills in the 1980s when he supported Dr Richard Lewis with the Save a Life campaign, and has delivered training in basic life support and effective use of a defibrillator to more than 20,000 volunteers

In 2003, his contribution to pre-hospital care was recognised by the British Heart Foundation when he became the first paramedic in the United Kingdom to be funded by the charity to carry out his role.

He was also involved in the successful launch of a Welsh Government-funded Public Access Defibrillator initiative.

Death of former Porthcawl councillor

TRIBUTES have been paid following the death of former Porthcawl councillor and prominent businesswoman in the town Kay Middleton.

A Conservative member of Porthcawl Town council from 1999 to 2004 Mrs Middleton was a former president of Porthcawl Chamber of Trade, being the first person to hold the office two years in succession.

She lived in the Brickyard, Newton Village but died in Danygraig Respite Care Home.

Mrs Middleton who leaves a daughter Denise, herself a former Porthcawl councillor and son Stuart was best known for owning Porthcawl School of Motoring.

Porthcawl Town council stood for a moment's silence in memory of Mrs Middleton at its monthly meeting.

Tributes to Mrs Middleton were led by current councillor Chris Smart, a lifelong friend who had known her for more than 50 years.

"Kay lived life to the full, was a true character who made a major contribution to the town during a colourful life and was the life and soul of any gathering.

"She served her community well, having represented Newton on the council and was a real champion of the independent trader putting her heart into the Chamber of Trade activities.

"Kay will be sadly missed by all those she came into contact with."

Advice for small land-based businesses

START-UP and existing small land-based businesses looking to diversify and generate a new income stream can get free advice under a new scheme.

Agora is a two-year project to help producers of goods grown, grazed or made in areas in mid- and south-east Wales.

Any kind of land-based business – whether a producer of food or drink, or items such as wood or wool – is eligible to apply to join the scheme. Support will be available to help, it is

estimated, 240 producers over the next 18 months.

The collaborative project is led by Bridgend County Borough Council and delivered by Menter a Busnes, an independent company that helps individuals and organisations in Wales.

A spokesperson said: "Its overall aim is to encourage farmers and producers to work together to discover new business opportunities locally and beyond, and beyond that."

Search for 'Menter a Busnes' on the internet for more information.

Lions ready for run

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In addition to the usual pipe music there will be other entertainments including a raffle, proceeds of which will be donated to support The Porthcawl Museum. Tickets are available at the Museum in John Street.

See the Lions' website for more information.

A very merry Christmas to all from Porthcawl Lions Club.

DR

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A Christmas message from the Vale Council leader...

I'D like to take this opportunity to wish all Vale residents a very happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

It has been a whirlwind first seven months as Leader of the Vale Council since the Conservative Party's success at the local elections back in May. I must admit I've found it something of a culture shock splitting my time between the family business and the demands of heading an organisation that plays such an important role in all our lives.

Often that has meant very long days, chairing Council meetings and meeting with our partners in the private or voluntary sectors or attending Scrutiny Committees in the evening.

The run up to Christmas is another busy period, but hopefully there will be a little time to relax with the family over the festive period.

As I say, it has been a hectic second half of the year with many pressing issues to address so it was vital my colleagues in the Cabinet and I hit the ground running after the May elections.

I'd like to think in the short time we have been in control there has already been significant progress made in some of the areas that most affect Vale residents, and we will continue to fight for our communities amid challenging financial conditions in 2018.

One subject of major concern is the traffic situation in and around Dinas Powys. I'm sure most of us are aware of the problems of congestion in the area and that this is something that affects not only the village

itself, but as the main transport link for the area, has consequences for the entire eastern Vale.

Residents' opinions have been canvassed on the matter, and having met with those living locally myself, I understand first hand just how concerned they are and fully appreciate why this subject generates such strong feelings.

It is a complicated issue, but after years of inaction, we have taken real strides to address the problem. Funding has been secured from Welsh Government for a scoping exercise and the second stage of work into exploring potential solutions is well under way.

Once the findings of studies that have been conducted are clear, I look forward to assessing the best way forward.

We have already moved to spend money on road resurfacing at the Merrie Harrier junction on the edge of Penarth to improve the condition of this busy transport route.

Funding has also been gained from Welsh Government to investigate the possibility of improving access between the M4 and the Vale, potentially shortening journey times to the likes of Barry, the airport and St Athan and enhancing the County's appeal to investors.

This is an exciting initiative that could be hugely important for the Vale, possibly forming part of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, a £1.28 billion funding agreement with Welsh and National Government that will hopefully see large scale investment in the South East Wales area which should provide high quality job opportunities for Vale residents.

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Cllr
JOHN THOMAS
Leader of the
Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

Linked to this are the improvement works set to be carried out at Five Mile Lane, a project that will provide better access along this popular route that connects western Barry with the A48. A contractor for the scheme has been appointed and is currently undertaking detailed design work before the building phase begins early next year.

Elsewhere in the Vale, the Council is pressing ahead with ambitious plans to boost Cowbridge town centre by regenerating the Livestock Market site.

These proposals include moving the market to an edge of town site. The old site will be marketed to a developer, with an emphasis on creating more public car parking, something that can further strengthen what is already a bustling retail community.

There will also be an opportunity for VMCE to build a community building and tied into the scheme is an opportunity for the Charter Trust to restore the historic town walls, something that can further add to Cowbridge's unique charm and appeal.

The wheels are already in motion to make these ambitious plans a reality and we believe they will bring real benefits to residents, businesses and the wider

community.

With such significant projects on the horizon and a number of other exciting plans afoot, I think we can look ahead to the New Year with real cause for optimism.

August will see the first Brecon Carreg Barry Island 10k race staged around what, after long-term Council-led improvements, must now be recognised as one of the UK's premier seaside resorts.

Following a period of sustained work to upgrade the Island, this event will allow thousands from near and far to enjoy its facilities and showcase the range of attractions the location has to offer.

Such an event can help to grow Barry as a tourist destination, which of course has far-reaching positive consequences, not least for local traders and businesses.

Further evolution of the Island will see the old and unused public conveniences renovated and converted into a

cluster of restaurants after plans were submitted to the Council by an experienced developer.

The former Good's Shed building on Hood Road in Barry is also set for redevelopment under plans to transform it into a range of pop-up cafes and bars.

That represents continued Council work at Barry's Innovation Quarter, and the waterfront area as a whole, following the success of the Hang Fire restaurant and Academy café bar. Both of those businesses occupy the old Pump House premises and are thriving there.

There are testing times ahead, with the Council having to deal with financial pressures and a decrease in the settlement provided by Welsh Government.

I have written to Welsh Government ministers on a number of occasions requesting 'fair funding' for the Vale as we continue to be one of the poorest funded authorities in Wales.

But with careful management, I'm confident the hurdles ahead can be overcome and we can all look to the future with real positivity.

Once again, may I offer you the warmest of season's greetings, and if you're looking for something to do on Boxing Day, a walk along our beautiful Heritage coast should blow out the cobwebs.

When a face rings not just a bell, but also alarms

BACK in June this year South Wales Police (SWP) deployed Automated Facial Recognition (AFR) 'Locate' for the UEFA Champions League week in Cardiff.

AFR Locate is a real-time solution which utilises live feeds from CCTV cameras based either at specific, fixed locations or cameras secured atop police vehicles to locate persons on prescribed watch lists.

SWP was the first force in the UK to have a positive match using AFR, leading to the arrest of a 34 year old man wanted on a recall to prison. On August 7, SPW went live with AFR 'Identify' which uses a static face search capability. AFR Identify allows officers to load images of persons of interest and compare them against our 500,000 custody images to see if there is a possible match on identification.

Between July 28 and December 12 this year

there have been positive matches against 191 occurrences using AFR Identify.

Fifty charges and 12 arrests have been brought so far with eight prison sentences being handed down. The charges include theft, sexual offences, burglary, robbery and drug offences.

Alongside criminal investigations, the technology has helped officers with a non-suspicious sudden death where the identity of the deceased was unknown.

The AFR technology shows that it can assist officers not only in criminal enquiries, but also ones such as this when a person is either unconscious or deceased with no formal identification apparent. It can also help with identifying missing persons or those suffering from Alzheimer's or other similar health issues, which allow officers to safeguard the vulnerable, quicker.

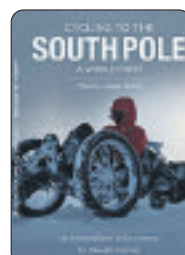
Juliet Gardner

Maria recalls spending Christmas at the bottom of the world...

WHILE we huddle round our fires this Christmas spare a thought for Vale endurance athlete Maria Leijerstam who really knows what it is like to spend the festive season in the coldest place on earth.

Four years ago, 35-year-old Maria spent Christmas battling through snow, ice, crevasses and winds of 40 miles per hour in Antarctica in a solo attempt to be the first person in the world to cycle to the South Pole from the edge of the continent.

After 10 days of cycling in atrocious conditions with an aggravated knee injury, she claimed two world firsts ahead of two other male cyclists aiming for the titles.



This Christmas, Maria, now a mother of two young daughters, reminisces in her new book, *Cycling to the South Pole*, about climbing the Leverett glacier and her innate longing to return to the bitter cold land of silence described by Captain Scott as "an awful place."

Below is an extract from her journey... "Avalanche after avalanche powering down the mountains throughout the day gnawed into my fears about my safety and the glacier climb ahead. My perception of distance was confused. The scale, magnitude and emptiness of the Transantarctic mountain range that lay to my right grew closer as I pedalled."

I thought about how both Scott and Amundsen would have arrived at its foot over a hundred years ago, and how they would have set about tackling the unknown.

The Beardmore glacier that Captain Scott had chosen and the Axel Heiberg glacier that Roald Amundsen had tackled, were steeper but shorter in distance than the Leverett glacier. They would have arrived at the mountain base with dogs and ponies. I was soon to arrive with my unusual looking, untested, Polarcycle.

For the first time on my journey I began to doubt the strength in my thighs, which I had worked so hard to build up over the last year. I took some comfort in the fact that my 985 watts of maximum power, that I had produced in my fitness testing, would go some way in helping me.

Testing my legs in a controlled environment was, however, no comparison to testing them on a glacier in Antarctica at minus 40 degrees.

My tyres were rumbling over hard packed ice, with the occasional layer of soft snow blown from a snowdrift. The strong winds, that regularly channelled down the glacier, produced exposed ice, making the possibility of pitching a tent more and more difficult.

I feared I did not have sufficient ice screws to hold my tent on pure ice in a severe storm. The lack of snow would mean I would have to dig up huge blocks of ice to lay on the valances to keep my tent rooted to the spot.

One moment the glacier seemed to tower down on me as angry as it had been in my nightmares and in another moment the ice looked smooth and the gradient shallow.

I realised that my vision was deceiving me and my ability to calculate depth was impaired. The glacier stretched 3,000 metres above sea level in an endless tail of ice that disappeared into the sky above.

My thoughts started to fracture at the prospect of the climb ahead, so I forced myself to concentrate on the magnificence of my immediate surroundings. At times I had to pinch myself just in case I was dreaming. The enormity of the mountain range that surrounded me was mind boggling, indescribable — too vast for my mind to handle.

It prompted demons to pop into my mind and I had to make a constant effort to chase them away as I pedalled on. Over the last two days I had climbed gradients of between one and eight percent and I was accustomed to cycling uphill. My legs were tired but fully engaged and I had plenty of strength left.

Until now, I had avoided using my lowest gear ring on the front wheel, as having one more ring in reserve gave me hope. The gradient was now rising to between eight and ten per cent in places.

I had cycled 50 kilometres in 13 hours and 20 minutes and my GPS revealed that I was at an altitude of 1,452 metres. That meant I had just over 1400 metres left to climb up the glacier.

All of a sudden I hit a slightly steeper section of the glacier and I was forced to enter my lowest front gear ring for the first time. I had been dreading this as I needed to save this gear for the toughest inclines.

I pushed on and the pedalling became very tough. As I touched 51 kilometres I was forced to stop. I was shattered and the thought of what lay ahead was overwhelming."

Read more of Maria's expedition in *Cycling to the South Pole* — a world first, available on Amazon books.

AL

Chapel carol concert



Barry Community Choir and the brass band led by Dr Haydn Jones.

BARRY Town Mayor Cllr Nic Hodges and Mayoress Cllr Shirley Hodges held a Christmas carol concert at Merthyr Dyfan cemetery chapel last weekend, welcoming guests including Barry Community Choir and a brass band led by Dr Haydn Jones of Dinas Powys.

Barry Town Council Mayor, Cllr Nic Hodges, thanked participants and guests for attending, saying: "This is the first time that we have held a Christmas Carol concert at the Merthyr

Dyfan Cemetery Chapel, a wonderful and intimate venue, and I was very pleased to see Barry Community Choir and the brass band led by Dr Haydn Jones perform once again."

All money raised at the event goes to the Mayor's charities — Ty Hafan and the British Heart Foundation.

The Merthyr Dyfan cemetery chapel will be open again for visitors on Christmas Eve, between 9am and 3pm, when the Friends of the Cemetery hold their annual Christmas memorial day, where visitors can light a candle in memory of a loved one at the cemetery.

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For more than 40 years, Recliner Chair Centre has provided the UK with the highest quality motion furniture in vast choice of sizes and fabrics. The story behind the business reveals the true extent of first class customer service. Owner, Alun Williams says "I was one of the first to bring Rise and Recline Chairs into the UK and helped develop the product for a number of manufacturers in Wales and England. Our experience and knowledge means we claim to be the UK's leading independent showroom retailer - showing the differences and ranges of actions used on this type of chair"

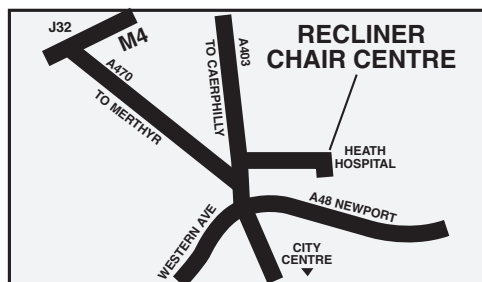
"We started in COWBRIDGE in 1977. At that time most of our chairs were manufactured in Talbot

us cope with **same day and next day delivery**. But, of course, most are made to our customer's order from the huge range of fabrics and leathers available. Many order another chair or sofa to match."

The floor area showcases over 100 products and more lift and recline chairs than anywhere else. "We used the opportunity to develop the building and move our focus to major brands. We embraced **PARKER KNOLL, SHERBORNE, CELEBRITY** and **CINTIQUE** but also stock other brands for optimum choice. Every chair has to 'earn its place' by showing a different variation of sizes and mechanisms. Lift and Recline Chairs now account for 80% of our business (a reflection of

how specialised this area is) and over the last six years we have also sold the Sherborne Motorised bed in all its variables. The bed essentially uses the same generic type of linear motors on which our expertise is founded - crossing the disciplines of engineering and upholstered furniture. I think this is why any new customer usually gives us a pyramid of recommendations and therefore further sales" says Alun.

Their genuine commitment to customer service is demonstrated and backed up with the fact that members of staff don't receive commission on sales. "We give the best advice we can, without any pressure. We hear of horrible customer experiences elsewhere. We hear of obscene prices and so called "free" offers. Mostly, we hear of problems when things go wrong because they can't get after sales support.....**Our customers tell a different story!**" Our team can offer their extensive knowledge. Sue has been here for 20 years and Chris for over a decade. It's in our nature to look after our customers. We've been here such a long time that we see people again and again over the years." adds Sue.



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The Glamorgan GEM

Season's Greetings

Merry CHRISTMAS and a joyful NEW YEAR 2018



Andrew RT Davies AM
Leader of the Welsh Conservatives

If I can help you in 2017 please do not hesitate to contact me on **0300 200 6565** or **AndrewRT.Davies@Assembly.Wales**

www.AndrewRTDavies.com

Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives

The festive season shows the best of community spirit

THERE are certain things about The GEM's final edition of the year that you can safely predict.

You won't have to search too hard to find Santa appearing in a photograph.

Similarly, there may be one or two reports of concerts featuring Christmas music.

Choirs have been brushing up on 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' or 'Silent Night' - which makes a valuable function all year round.

There are U3As, WIs, Rotarays, Round Tables, Lions, Buffs and Soroptimists - to name just a few.

Whether some exist for the enjoyment or education of their members, or whether their raison d'être is to raise funds to improve society, at Christmas they all find their thoughts turning to how they can celebrate their relative good fortune by softening some of the hard blows that have laid fellow citizens low.

Not just fellow citizens, of course, the volunteers in the Vale Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal recently sent the amazing total of 21,000 shoeboxes to eastern Europe.

Considering that the Vale has a population of around 129,000, that is a remarkable total that speaks volumes

about the community's values.

Here at The GEM, we receive plenty of reports about charitable projects that have borne fruit at this time of year, and it reflects so much that is good in society.

Similarly, so many groups give up their time to tackle that other great modern evil - loneliness.

When various groups - be they clubs, schools, choirs or any other - take the time to visit groups who may be isolated, it takes us all back to the days when there was a stronger sense of community.

At this time of year, we seem to get a lot of good news - and we enjoy being able to pass it on.

Bad news will always be out there, but sometimes it is good to celebrate the ties that bind society together!

PHILIP IRWIN

The Llantwit Major Conservative Branch

would like to wish everyone

a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Thanks to all who supported the party in 2017

If you are interested in joining our group or just supporting our aims please call

01446 795367

Llantwit Major Town Council



Councillor Mrs Jayne Norman,
Town Mayor and all Town Councillors wish Llantwit Major residents and visitors **a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2018**

Councillor Janice Charles

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council extends

• **SEASONS GREETINGS** •

To all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan; May God's peace be in your hearts and homes this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.



Mae Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn ymestyn

• **TYMHORAU CYFARCH** •

I holl drigolion Bro Morgannwg. Bydded heddwch Duw yn eich calonnau a chartrefi y tymor hwn y Nadolig a thrwy gydol y flwyddyn newydd.

Llantwit First Independent Councillors



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Your Labour Councillors in the Vale of Glamorgan wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Welsh Labour Llafur Cymru

Contact your local Councillors by writing to:
The Labour Party, 115 High Street, Barry CF62 7DT.
This greeting has been produced at no cost to the taxpayer.

JANE HUTT AM

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan Would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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Anfon Cyfarchion i bobl y dref y Barri, ynghyd a dymuniadau diffuant am Iechyd, Hapusrwydd a Ffyniant ar gyfer y Nadolig

Fluffy toy donated to children's hospice



Ready, Freddie, go!

A CARDIFF care home has donated a toy dog to a children's hospice in the Vale for Christmas.

Tŷ Llandaff in Pontcanna presented the stuffed animal to Tŷ Hafan on December 18.

The care home also raised £100 for the hospice after coming up with a 'guess the name of the dog' competition. Staff bought names from a list with Tŷ Llandaff laundry assistant Gail Henderson guessing the name 'Freddie' correctly.

James Dhale received the fluffy dog and cheque on behalf of Tŷ Hafan from Tŷ Llandaff care home manager Janice Evans.

Curtain up at Barry's 'Small Space' venue

BARRY can now officially lay claim to Wales' 'smallest theatre' after a compromise was reached with the Vale planning department earlier this week.

'The Small Space', located on 5 Island Road, has finally been given the green light and plans to open in the New Year.

Owners and professional local magicians Bryan Gunton and Jasper Blakeley promise to showcase the best in magic talent from the UK and abroad.

Jasper told The GEM it had been a lengthy process: "At one point it was looking doubtful that we'd be allowed to change this little shop into a theatre, but with complete cross-party support and following Barry Mayor Nic Hodges calling the matter in front of the Vale planning committee, a solution was eventually found.

"It is now all hands on deck to put the finishing touches to the theatre and

bar." Bryan is really pleased at the way it's all coming together and said: "Once the curtains went up it really started to feel like an amazing and intimate performance space. We can't wait to get going."

Tickets are available through www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-small-space and more dates will be released soon.

DROP-IN AT ST DONAT'S

ST DONAT'S Community Councillors are inviting all members of the community to attend a drop-in session to enable them to discuss concerns and aspirations for the place they live in.

The drop-in session has been arranged for Saturday, January 13 at 10.30am at the Horseshoe Inn, Marcross.

Your community councillors look forward to meeting you.



Hazel Davies and John Chown present the cheque for £1,000 to the Vale Foodbank in Barry.

Rooms4U hands over cheque

ON December 18 the Vale Foodbank received £1,000 from the Rooms4U shared housing project following its Pat Chown award win.

Back in October Rooms4U, funded by Crisis UK, was recognised by Community Housing Cymru and awarded the Pat Chown Capturing Creativity award for finding innovative solutions to help people under the aged of 35 find a home.

Pat Chown gave a big part of her life to helping others, and the award in her memory came with a £1,000 prize. As this year's award-winner, Rooms4U elected to donate the prize money to the Vale Foodbank which has expanded throughout the

county, using five centres to distribute food parcels. John Chown, Pat's husband, was delighted to attend the cheque presentation, he said: "We felt that Rooms4U has had a real, positive difference on the lives of young people and were impressed at the thoughtful ways that the project was set up to help young tenants find housemates and the introduction of training and employment opportunities.

Rooms4U is hosted by Newydd Housing Association with support from the Vale Council, with the aim of providing young people with a solution to homelessness through shared housing.

AS

Local young artists win Christmas card competition

THREE young artists from the Vale have won local MP Alun Cairns' Christmas card competition.

Beth Emerton, a year-6 pupil at Romilly Primary School, came in first place with her festive robin design. In second place was Amelia from Birch class at Llancarfan Primary School and in at third was Melissa Cookson from Romilly Primary School.

Mr Cairns received nearly 1,000 entries this year from school pupils across the region. Beth's winning design will feature on the front of the MP's card with the two runner-ups' designs displayed on the back.

Every child who entered has been presented with a personalised parliamentary certificate featuring their own design. The winners also received a Big Ben ruler and pencil as well as a game of 'Uno' each.

Alun Cairns said: "I am very proud to be sending Christmas cards to my friends, family and colleagues with Beth's design on the front.

"There were so many



Romilly Primary School's Beth Emerton won the competition with her festive design.

excellent designs sent to me - the decision was very tough! After much contemplation, my team and I agreed that Beth's design really did stand out, with Amelia and Melissa's coming as close runners-up.

"Thank you to all who entered. It was a joy to judge this competition and I very much look forward to doing so again next year."

NFU ladies' Christmas!

A BIG thank you to the Reverend Victoria Ashley for the lovely carol service in Penllyn Church and her kind words at the sad loss of our member, Oenwen Jones.

At the Christmas party in the village hall, The Old Spice Barber Shop Quartet entertained us with a polished performance and a delicious buffet was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting is at 7pm on January 16 at Grove Park Golf Club for the annual dinner.

Happy Christmas to everyone from the NFU Ladies. RJE



Amelia from Llancarfan Primary School won second prize in the competition.

The GEM will be taking a break for Christmas!

Our next edition will be 4th January 2018.

Visit glamorgan-gem.co.uk

for all the latest news, sports reports, results, nativity photos, community news plus local advertisers with their latest offers and promotions. The site will be updated **ALL DAY, EVERY DAY** over the festive period.



We would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Barry girl becomes Railway Chaplain

THE Railway Mission has appointed a 19-year-old Barry woman as its latest chaplain.

Hannah Tuck is the mission's youngest railway chaplain.

Founded in 1881, the Railway Mission has been supporting railway staff and members of the public affected by railway incidents for more than 136 years.

Hannah will be chaplain for the railway network for Wales and the Marches. She has been volunteering with 'St John Wales' since she was 12 years old.

She joined the organisation after she was treated for an injury by the charity at the Penarth Festival.

During her time with St John Wales, Hannah became first aid trained and was named 'County Cadet for Cardiff and the Vale', acting as a mentor and role model to other volunteers in the area.

She was doing all this while at the same time



Hannah Tuck.

acting as a young carer for her sister who has Down's Syndrome, and her mother who suffers from atrial fibrillation and migraines.

Hannah also received the 'Commandant in Chief Award' for acts of kindness, one of the highest awards available to a St John Cadet.

The mission says she will bring that same care, compassion and kindness to her role as railway chaplain for Wales and

the Marches.

Railway Mission executive director Liam Johnston said: "Chaplaincy is not about age, but compassion and care for people."

"Hannah has demonstrated that through her childhood. She has always put others first and shown the care and love for others that makes her the ideal chaplain."

Hannah's appointment was welcomed by the managing director of Arriva Trains Wales, Tom Joyner.

He said: "We are delighted to be working closely with Hannah as the chaplain for Wales and the Marches and extend her a very warm welcome to the rail family."

"The Railway Chaplaincy service has helped many people – particularly after fatalities and other incidents. It provides an essential service for our colleagues and customers and I'm sure Hannah will provide excellent support to those who need it."

LAST November, Hugo, a beagle, was one of 96 puppies rescued by RSPCA Cymru and other agencies in a pre-Christmas operation.

The RSPCA is using Hugo's story to highlight the point that puppies should not be Christmas presents that can be discarded at a later date.

November 2016's swoop saw two consignments of puppies – including beagles, basset hounds, labradoodles and pomeranians – intercepted at Holyhead.

Most of the puppies were aged between six and seven weeks old.

An RSPCA spokesman said: "Conditions on the two vehicles were horrendous, and placed the puppies at risk of severe welfare problems."

"Transport was not ventilated, adequate food and water not provided, and filthy conditions



were evident in both vehicles.

"Shockingly, in one van, attempts had been made to conceal the transported puppies behind bales of wood shavings."

"After an initial veterinary inspection the puppies were returned to the Republic of Ireland, and into the care of the RSPCA."

"Thankfully, all bar one survived, and were happily re-homed – including beagle pup Hugo."

The RSPCA emphasises that impulse puppy purchases are often not well-researched, and can unwittingly fuel the illegal puppy trade. AS

Vale MP urges Welsh Gov't to give cancer patients in Wales 'parity with England'

VALE MP and Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns is calling on the Welsh Government to give Welsh cancer patients the same access to treatment already received by English patients.

Mr Cairns has formally written to Welsh Health Secretary Vaughan Gething to highlight the lack of cancer drugs available in Wales compared to those that patients are able to access in England.

Since 2013, English patients have been able to access Perjeta, a drug that can significantly extend the lives of women with HER2 positive incurable secondary breast cancer.

The Welsh Government has not provided this medication on the NHS due to the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) not concluding its appraisal of the drug. Despite this, it has been available to patients in England through the Cancer Drugs Fund.

In addition to Perjeta, the MP is calling for Palbociclib and Ribociclib to be made available. Both drugs can provide up to 10 additional months of good quality life to

patients dying from HER2 negative incurable secondary breast cancer. The two drugs have been recently recommended by NICE to be made available on the NHS, however no information has yet been shared by Mr Gething as to whether or not Welsh patients will be able to receive this treatment.

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "Welsh cancer patients should not be at a disadvantage compared to those living across the border. Every second of life is precious to those with incurable cancer, as well as to their loved ones."

"Therefore if there are drugs available which can extend these patients' lives, then it is only right that those in Wales have the same access as English patients."

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "The Health Secretary has already written to the Secretary of State to explain that palbociclib and ribociclib will be available in Wales next month."

"We are awaiting a decision from NICE on Perjeta. Since our New Treatment Fund was launched in January, we have drastically cut the timeframe for making recommended medicines available."

Farewell service at St Paul's church

EVERYONE who has had a family connection with the Barry Church of St Paul's is warmly invited to the farewell service on New Year's Eve.

St Paul's was the first Anglican church built for the new town of Barry in 1892 and many generations of families will have past and present members who have been in the congregation, sung in the choir, been altar servers and Mothers' Union members over all the 125 years.

The very last service begins at 10.30am on Sunday morning, December 31 and many from all the Anglican churches of Barry will be joining the St Paul's congregation for what will be a celebration of all the years, for all those who have attended St Paul's for christenings, confirmations, weddings, funerals and glorious services.

The land for the building of St Paul's was given by Lady Jenner of Wenvoe Castle and under the leadership of its famous Rector David Weatherill, established the tradition of glorious 'High Church' services with beautiful ceremony, incense, many candles and outstanding singing.

Ever since the days of Father Weatherill, St Paul's stood for a tradition re-born of the Oxford Movement, which depends not on a love of what has been described as 'Technicolour' worship, not on ceremony for ceremony's sake, but on a right understanding of God and the Sacrament of the Altar, with worship focused on beautiful and holy chancels and sanctuaries.

St Paul's Choir was of such a high standard that it was chosen to sing in London at the Festival of Britain in 1951. The Festival of Britain was similar to the Millennium celebrations and in London was built The Skylon and Dome of Discovery.

In 1956 the choir sang Choral Evensong for BBC Radio 3. This service is still broadcast every Wednesday today and as an example of the standard of St Paul's Choir, Choral Evensong is usually sung only by Cathedral choirs. A young member of St Paul's choir in those days was Robert Tear who became a tenor of

international fame.

St Paul's Church contains a war memorial to all the past church members who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars and one from the Korean War. Also displayed in St Paul's was the red ensign from the steamship *Trevesa* which sank in the Indian Ocean.

The flag was rescued by the cabin boy, from Barry, and the flag presented many years ago by his mother, Mrs Dora Phillips. A beautiful memorial window in St Paul's is to the captain and crew of the liner *Royston Grange* destroyed by a fierce fire after collision in the River Plate in 1972. All officers and crew lost their lives.

Her captain was from Barry: Captain George Booth, and the window, presented by his wife, bears the inscription 'REMEMBER CAPTAIN GEORGE BOOTH & CREW OF THE ROYSTON GRANGE LOST WITH ALL HANDS IN THE RIVER PLATE 1972 RIP.'

Immediately following the farewell service everyone can view a small exhibition of memories from past and present church members and St Paul's will remain open on Sunday morning until 1pm to view it. The display is being organised by Terry Sylvester whose grandparents attended St Paul's even before the church was built!

This was a 'tin church' known as the Iron Room, many of which were supplied in kit form to satisfy the urgent need for churches to serve expanding populations. The Sylvesters' family connection has continued through five generations; John Sylvester was a boy soloist in the choir in 1900 and his brother Victor Sylvester was church organist in the 1920s and three generations of current members of the family were in St Paul's choir.

St Paul's highly regarded last Rector is Father Robert Parrish who will continue to serve in the Barry Ministry area at Merthyr Dyfan Church and St Mary's, following the forced closure of St Paul's against all the wishes of its congregation, by the former Bishop of Llandaff and Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan.

Further information from Terry Sylvester on 01446 745444. AS

MP claims 'harassment forced him to move'

OGMORE MP Chris Elmore says MPs and councillors should be 'better protected from harassment by disgruntled voters and constituents'.

Mr Elmore said in a Commons debate on harassment that when he was a councillor in Barry, he had dog excrement pushed through his door and that 'people in public life need greater support to help them deal with issues of that kind'.

He told Home Secretary Amber Rudd that in the run-up to last year's by-election, in which he was elected in the Ogmere constituency, newspaper articles claimed that he did not live at the address at which he did live.

Mr Elmore said: "Despite the Labour Party offering proof, without doubt, that I lived at my home address, articles were run saying I did not live there."

"After my election I received countless numbers of tweets from people saying they were looking through my lounge windows to see

how my furniture was laid out. I lied to my partner – she now knows this – when I referred that to the police, because I was terrified she would want to move out of our home."

Referring to his experiences as a councillor in Barry, he said: "I have asked the Home Secretary whether she could change it so that councillors receive the same protection as MPs."

FoE meeting
THE next meeting of Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, January 2, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Friends of the Earth recently joined the Docks Incinerator Action Group (DIAG) on the steps of our Parliament, to meet Assembly Members.

They asked AMs to call on Carwyn Jones, the First Minister, to use his power to stop the incinerator getting a licence to operate.

"I had to move because constituents put dog excrement through my door. This behaviour is not just linked to MPs, but to councillors too."

Mr Elmore asked that by-election candidates, with all the scrutiny they receive from the written and social media, are given support particularly if they are then elected to the Commons and have never experienced that type of abuse before.

He has refused to do this, so the AMs were presented with 100-plus signed letters from residents asking him to reconsider.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is now in the process of its final consultation on the incinerator. This only lasts for a few weeks so we would ask members of the public to join DIAG and FoE in objecting to an operating licence being granted.

Let's hope 2018 is a peaceful, greener year.
Keith Stockdale, Barry & Vale FoE coordinator

Cruises on Balmoral cancelled for 2018

THE steamship Balmoral, a familiar sight in Penarth and Porthcawl over many years, will not venturing from her berth in Bristol in 2018.

Cruises next year have been cancelled as vital repairs need to be carried out.

Since 1986, Balmoral, along with *Waverley*, the world's last sea-going paddle steamer, has kept alive the nostalgic 200-

year-old tradition of cruising along the coasts of Britain.

The Balmoral is run by a charitable trust, and a £3.75m Heritage Lottery Fund bid has been submitted to secure the pleasure cruiser's long-term future.

Spokesman Dick Clague said: "We have been aware for some time from our discussions with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency that substantial and costly improvements

would need to be made to the crew accommodation before the 2019 season.

"We have more recently been advised that the long-accepted practice of using 'doubled plates' to repair the hull was no longer acceptable for anything other than emergency repairs."

"This would not only apply to future repairs but also means that previous repairs need to be removed and re-done. The cost of this work is included in our £3.75 million bid."

"We had expected to be required to deal with the doubled plates issue immediately before the 2019 season but in the last few weeks the MCA have advised that they will not issue a passenger certificate until the work has been done."

"We do not have the funds to undertake this work in time for the 2018 season, and until HLF funding becomes available (hopefully later next year) the work cannot be put in hand. MV Balmoral will therefore unfortunately not be able to sail in 2018."

There is an ongoing £450,000 appeal. People can support it online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/donation/donate.html?charity=mvbalmoralfund> limited.

There is also a volunteer website www.mvbalmoral.com. MV Balmoral Fund Trustee Dave Bassett can be contacted at bassett@dave@yahoo.co.uk. RP

Candlelight service on Christmas Eve

ON Christmas Eve afternoon, families and children, are warmly welcomed to Christingle and 'Carols by Candlelight' at the beautiful church of Merthyr Dyfan, in Merthyr Dyfan Lane, Colcot, Barry.

Beginning at 2.30pm, and lasting for around one hour, this will be an opportunity, particularly for children, to experience the true spirit of Christmas in the beautiful setting of this ancient church, which is one of the oldest Christian sites in Wales believed to date from around the year 600AD.

All children at the service, will be given a Christingle – which is an orange, representing the world with a candle to show Christ as the light of the world.

Christmas services will be led by Father

Robert Parish, and the organist will be Barry-born Father Brian Taylor. Admission is completely free.

Pedestrian access to Merthyr Dyfan church is by the path that begins at the side of the Barry cemetery gates, and cars can drive down Merthyr Dyfan lane, access is from Port Road. There is free car parking at the church.

There will be a special welcome to all people who live on the Colcot estate, many who may never have visited their 'own' church.

The first Mass of Christmas will be celebrated at 8pm on Christmas Eve at St Paul's Church Hall, in St Paul's Avenue, Barry and on the morning of Christmas day, Carols and Sung Mass are at Merthyr Dyfan Church at 8.45am and at St Paul's at 10.15am.

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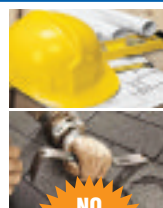
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Family Notices

CASWELL

Barbara Janet (née Cotterell)

Suddenly on 12th December at her home, Duffryn Crescent, Bryncae, Llanharan, Jan, dearly loved wife of the late Ken.
Much loved mother of Graham and Gareth, mother-in-law to Jayne and Bev. Loving nana to Laura, Abigail and Sophie.
Jan will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Thursday, 28th December. Service at St. Crallo's Church, Coychurch at 12 noon, followed by interment at Llanharan Cemetery at 1pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be made to Cancer Research Wales c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2, Hilda House, The Square, Pencoeed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

BAKER

Basil Stuart

Peacefully passed away at the University Hospital of Wales, Basil, aged 98, well known for his time as a coalman at W. Baker & Sons, Barry.
Adored husband of the late Mabel, cherished dad of Hilary and Ray and dad-in-law of Liz and the late Dave. Adored gramps to Michelle, Katie, Katrina, Christopher and Leigh and great gramps to Will, Gabrielle, Finley and Macie.

Service to take place at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry on Thursday, 28th December at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Basil's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk - all donations to support RNIB in memory of Basil.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to
Lyndsay J Ellis 01446 407962.

JONES

Oenwen Mary

Peacefully on Sunday, 10th December at her home, Bryn-Glas Farm, Coychurch, Oenwen, beloved wife of the late William (Bill), much loved mother of John and Rhoswen, mother-in-law of Philip. Loving grandmother to Grace, Alexandra and Victoria.

Will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, 28th December, service and interment 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Coity, Bridgend. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to Marie Curie c/o the funeral director.

LEWIS

Mary

Peacefully on 11th December at home, Mary of Hendre-Owen Farm, Llanharan, beloved wife of the late Trevor, devoted mother of Carolyn, Derek, Anne, Diana and Peter and a very proud mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral service to be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, 2nd January at 1.15pm. No flowers by request.



THOMAS

Glenys Marlene (née Davies)

Peacefully on Tuesday, 12th December 2017 at Llandough Hospital, Glenys of The Larches, Ystradowen (formerly of North Carolina and Cwm Parc, Rhondda). Much loved wife of Gwyn, loving aunt of Jeremy, proud great-aunt of Hannah and Claire. Dear sister of the late Joan and sister-in-law to the late Howard.

Glenys will be greatly missed by all her family and friends and will be remembered for her charity work with Tenovus.

Funeral Friday, 22nd December. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made to Alzheimer's Society c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2, Hilda House, The Square, Pencoeed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. Tel: 01656 860545.

JONES

Patricia Margaret (née Haig)

Peacefully, on 7 December at UHW Cardiff, Patricia Margaret (Pat, also known as Mary), aged 81 years of Park Road, Barry.
Dearly loved wife of Malcolm. A loved mother of Michael, David and mother-in-law of Suzanne and Catherine. Cherished grandmother of Emily, Jordan, Elan, and Jude.

Pat will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry. Funeral service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry where family and friends please meet on Wednesday, 27 December at 2pm. Family flowers only. If desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for N.S.P.C.C.

GRAY

Clifford Thomas (Cliff)

Peacefully on 15th December 2017, surrounded by his loving family, Clifford Thomas Gray, aged 82 years. Partner of Nickie and beloved husband of the late Iris, adored father of Stephanie, Jacqueline and Michael. Respected father-in-law and friend of Dave, Alun and Rebecca. Devoted grandfather and great grandfather, brother of Michael and Sandra.

Much respected and admired by all.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Friday, 29th December at Salem Baptist Church at 2pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Marie Curie Hospice Penarth c/o the funeral director.

BLACKLOCK

Mary Edith

Peacefully on the 6th December, Mary passed away at Milsom House Nursing Home, St Athan, aged 103 years. Beloved wife to the late Frank, loving mother to David, Arthur and William. Dearly loved by their partners, the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She will be sadly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Friday, 5th January 2018 at 10.30am and afterwards at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only please, donations, if wished, to St Illtud's Church c/o funeral directors (cheques only please, payable to Llantwit Major Church).

Acknowledgements

HEWITSON

Norma Jean

Brian and family would like to thank all who attended Norma's funeral and for the cards, messages and tributes for a very special lady.

It is comforting knowing that Norma was clearly loved and respected by so many. Special thanks to Dr Harfoot and staff at Waterfront Medical Centre, district nurses and carers who all showed such love and compassion for Norma during her long illness and who were a great support to Brian and Donna.

Thanks also to Robert Johnson Funeral Directors for their professional services, Father Kevin Lake for his kind words and beautiful service and to the Park Hotel.

Donations of over £600 were received in memory of Norma for Alzheimer's UK. Norma will be missed deeply but has left us all with memories to treasure.
Sleep tight.

In Memory

BIRD

Eric Osborne

4.4.1938 - 23.12.2014

To the world you are one person,

To one person you are the world.

Loved and missed always,

Judy, Simon, Sara-Jayne & Sam.

xxxx

In Memory

Christmas Memory Wishes
to our dear grandson

Jordan Montgomery

All our love always,
Nan & Gramps Crout.

xxx

EVANS

Ken

26 December 1938

Happy Birthday.

No cards this year, only memories,

Always in my heart,

Love from your wife Mags xxx

Dad, Happy Birthday

Love and miss you,
Sean, Alison, Neil, Emma
grandchildren and great grandchildren xxx

JOYCE KENNEDY

December 1980

I miss you in the morning and I miss you late
at night, and I miss you in the winter time when
snow is falling white.

Merry Christmas darling and a very happy new
year, I'm thinking of you sweetheart I only wish
that you were here.

Sleigh bells in the distance and mistletoe on
the tree, happy people holding hands but you're
not here with me.

Merry Christmas darling and a very happy
new year, I'm thinking of you sweetheart
I only wish that you were here.

Love you forever, Jim xxx



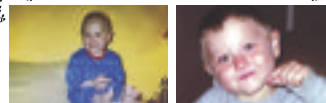
Craig Orchard

19/07/84 - 25/12/15

It's our second Christmas without you,
Time slips by and "life" goes on,
But from our hearts you're never gone.

Forever in our broken hearts,
Mum, Dad, Rhian, Bobo,
your family & friends

xxx



JAMIE ADAMSON

(25.12.98 - 20.01.04)

The five short years you stayed with us
were filled with love and joy,
I'll always take it as a gift
you chose to be my boy

On Christmas Day we'll stand with you
not grieving and not sad,
but thinking of the laughs you gave
as our mischievous lad
Your memory will never fade
and there could be no other,
that made us both so proud to be
your loving Dad and brother

xxxxxx

Lots of love on your 19th birthday, Dad, Sam Nanny
Joy, Paps, Denise and all your family in Wales & Sussex.

The Jamie Adamson Memorial Fund (J.A.M. Fund)
charity would like to thank all those who have
continued to support us during a difficult year.

Wishing the people of Barry and the Vale a very
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and sending
special thoughts and wishes to those children and
their families who may be in hospital over the festive
period, with hopes of a speedy recovery x

www.jamfund.co.uk

In Memory

ADAMS

Edward Howell

of Cross Farm, Pentre Meyrick
Three years on, we know you're up there with
Ronald Arthur putting the world to rights.

God Bless.

All our love as always
Paul, Charlotte, Chloe, Lily and William.

Karl

Williams

28 June 1974 - 20 July 2000

The moment that you died,
our hearts were torn in two.
One side filled with heartache,
the other died with you.

We hold you tightly within our hearts,
and there you will remain.

Merry Christmas, lots of love and kisses
Mum, Dad, Kris, Gemma, Curtis and Lacey.
xxx

Also, remembering Leighton Batt,
Richard & Dolly Pycroft, all Hazel's
brothers and sisters and their partners.
xxx

Birthdays

★ Congratulations ★
★ Rhiannon Gill ★
★ Happy 18th Birthday! ★
★ on 24th December ★
★ Love Nan & family ★
★ xxx ★

Happy 18th Birthday
Chloe Eve England
December 24th
Have a great day.
All our love, mum, Paul, Lily,
William & family.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations
Tristan & Ning
Francis
on the birth of
Benedict Robert Lei
on Thursday 7th December 2017
A little brother for Vincent, Talia and Sebastian
With much love from Nanny & Grandad, Nathan,
Hannah, Libby, Eloise & Edward, Aaron & Julia,
Jotham & Helene & Great Nanny Faith xxxxx

To advertise your
Situations Vacant, Family Notices,
Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.
Call Sue on 01446 774484.
email:
sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Anniversary

Happy Anniversary!

Peggy & Les Hall

23 December

Congratulations on 74 wonderful years of wedded bliss

Fondest love, Patricia, Derek & family and Maggie & family xxx

Seasons Greetings

Chris and John Boucheron

Would like to wish all friends and family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A donation will be made to the Stroke Association in lieu of Christmas cards.

Public Notice

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Glyn Gibson trading as Draintech Surveys Ltd of Atlantic House, Charnwood Park, Bridgend CF31 3PL is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To keep an extra 1 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Atlantic House, Charnwood Park, Bridgend CF31 3PL. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 388 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

AM backs Pass Wide and Slow campaign



Jo Lovell and Rachel Francis discussing the campaign with Andrew RT Davies AM.

THE campaign led by a group of Penarth ladies to improve road safety for horse riders has unveiled some exciting new plans.

Pass Wide and Slow recently presented its petition [see the GEM, October 26] to the National Assembly for Wales calling for better driver awareness of the dangers riders face on the roads.

They now want to take the matter further and have the issue debated in the Senedd.

South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies – who chairs the Assembly's Cross Party Group on Horses – met up with Jo Lovell and Rachel Francis from the campaign at Jo's Penarth home.

He has now entered the ballot for a

Short Debate and also plans to table a Backbench Debate to ensure the campaign is discussed by AMs in the Senedd.

Mr Davies said: "It was great to meet up with Jo and Rachel again and discuss their exciting plans for Pass Wide and Slow.

"The petition was a great success but this must only be the start. We now need to ensure AMs and Welsh Government Ministers realise how vital it is action is taken to make our roads safer.

"I'm delighted to offer support and have entered the ballot for a Short Debate in the Assembly.

"In the New Year I will also look to build cross-party support for a backbench motion to be debated in the Senedd."

Seasons Greetings

Marsh Babs and John

and all the family would like to wish all our friends, relations and carers

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mary Bacon

would like to wish family, friends and neighbours

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Watson Christmas Notice

Wishing family, friends and neighbours

a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

All donations go to Parkinson's disease in memory of Brian in lieu of cards.

Eileen and Tony Bennett

would like to wish their family, friends and neighbours a

Wonderful Christmas & a Happy New Year

Howard & Marilyn Hellyar

would like to wish family, friends, neighbours and fellow bowlers a

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY, HEALTHY, NEW YEAR.

Alan & Loena Sheppard/Owls4U

We wish all our friends in

Barry and the Vale

Happy Christmas and a Wonderful New Year

A donation to 617 Group in lieu of cards

Situations Vacant

Are you fit to deliver?

We need fit reliable people to help distribute the **Glamorgan GEM** newspaper to local homes, once a week.

- TEENAGERS (aged 13 years and over)
- ACTIVE SENIOR CITIZENS
- HOUSEWIVES
- STUDENTS
- SHIFT WORKERS

Please ring: **01202 811666**

email info@thedistributionbusiness.co.uk

If we do not have an immediate vacancy in your area, your details will be placed on our waiting list until a suitable opportunity occurs.

There's lots more online...



Cancer Research Wales seeks new fundraisers

WALES' cancer research charity, Cancer Research Wales, is calling on people in Wales to form a fundraising team in their local area and help the charity continue its work in the fight against cancer.

Founded in 1966 by a small group of professors based at Velindre Hospital in Cardiff, Cancer Research Wales has since grown to become a major force in the discovery of new

precision treatments for cancer, early diagnosis and progress towards cures.

Cancer Research Wales is supported by fundraisers across Wales and thanks to these donations, the charity can continue its world-class research, making a difference to the fight against cancer here in Wales, by making discoveries and developing new treatments for cancer in hospitals and research centres across Wales.

More recently the charity announced the results of an immuno-

therapy trial which will extend the lifespan and improve the quality of life for some cancer patients in Wales.

The charity is now appealing to the people of Wales to continue their fundraising efforts and join the charity's fundraising team to help raise money in their local areas to fund the work the charity does.

Katie Killoran, fundraising manager at Cancer Research Wales said: "We are very fortunate to already have so many

supporters, from varied backgrounds across Wales. Supporters have different reasons that inspire them to for fundraise for our charity; some have had their lives affected by cancer in some way or have had a personal experience with it and are motivated to support a charity that directs all its donations to the research projects that are being run right here in Wales."

If you are interested in joining the Cancer Research Wales fundraising team, then contact crw@wales.nhs.uk, visit cancerresearchwales.co.uk or call on 029 2031 6976.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Senedd visit for new bishop



THE Right Reverend The Bishop of Llandaff June Osborne (left in the above photograph) visited the Senedd for the first time since she became bishop.

As well as a touring the Senedd, she met Vale AM Jane Hutt, and staff, and discussed her new role with Ms Hutt.

Situations Vacant



Barry Town Council is the largest Town Council in Wales and is expanding its staffing to meet its statutory functions, strategic ambitions and support its mission of 'Creating an inclusive community for the wellbeing of all residents in Barry'.

Full details of our vacancies can be found on our website www.barrytowncouncil.gov.uk or call us for an application pack on 01446 738663.

Planning Officer

Barry Town Council is a statutory consultee on Planning Authority decisions. We are looking for a Royal Town Planning Institute member to provide planning advice to the Council on planning applications and all matters relating to planning policy including development of a Place Plan for the Barry area.

10 hrs per week, permanent (start date 1st February 2018)

Grade 9 SCP 34 - 37 (£30,153 - £32,486 pro rata)

Please note the closing date for all applications is 15 January 2018 at 4pm.

Interviews will be held on 22 January 2018 at Barry Town Council Offices.



Cyngor Tref Y Barri yw'r Cyngor Tref mwyaf yng Nghymru ac mae'n ehangu ei staffio er mwyn cyflawni ei swyddogaethau statudol, dyheadau strategol ac i gefnogi ei genhadaeth i 'Greu cymuned gynhwysol er lles holl drigolion Y Barri'.

Mae manylion llawn ein swyddi gweigion i'w gweld ar ein gwefan www.barrytowncouncil.gov.uk neu ffoniwch ni i gael pecyn cais ar 01446 738663.

Swydddog Cynllunio

Mae Cyngor Tref Y Barri yn ymgynghori statudol ar benderfyniadau yr Awdurdod Cynllunio. Rydym yn chwilio am aelod o'r Sefydliad Cynllunio Trefol Brenhinol i roi cyngor cynllunio i'r Cyngor ar geisiadau cynllunio a phob mater mewn perthynas â pholisi cynllunio, gan gynnwys datblygu Cynllun Bro ar gyfer ardal y Barri.

10 awr yr wythnos, parhaol (dyddiad cychwyn 1af Chwefror 2018)

Gradd 9 SCP 34 - 37 (£30,153 - £32,486 pro rata)

Sylwer mai'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer pob cais yw 15 Ionawr 2018 am 4pm.

Cynhelir cyfweiliadau ar 22 Ionawr 2018 yn Swyddfeydd Cyngor Tref Y Barri.

Mark's epic year-long run challenge nears its end

GETTING out for a run can be a struggle at this time of year for even the most enthusiastic of runners.

But Porthcawl resident Mark Bowen is now just over a week away from completing his epic challenge of running on every single day in 2017.

The 35-year-old, who is also a member of the Porthcawl Runners, will have clocked up a staggering 2,200 kilometres – and all in aid of Many Tears Animal Rescue in Llanelli, for whom he

has raised in excess of £1,000 so far, as well as raising awareness.

Many Tears take in and re-home dogs who, more often than not, have suffered neglect.

He explained: "We're big dog lovers in our family and I'd read a lot about the refuge centre.

"They rely entirely on donations and volunteers and it's a constant struggle for them to keep doing what they do.

"So this was something positive that I could do for them – to go for runs and raise money."

His plan consisted of running at least 3km a



day but no less than 30km in any given week – with an initial target of 1,600km for the year, which he has smashed. "It feels mad now," he

continued. "The last two months have probably been the hardest,

because it's felt like everything I could have been ill with, I've had.

"But I've been lucky with injuries and it's just that desire to see it through, even when I've had a long day at work and felt a bit under the weather.

"My mindset all the way through has been that I've committed to this and I'm just going to get out there and do it."

"Thinking about what those dogs have gone through gets me out there and gets me

through it, without fail.

"My wife has been really supportive. I think at the start, like most people, she probably thought it was a bit of a crazy idea.

"But as the months went by she got more and more supportive and she could see there was no way I wasn't going to do it."

Bowen is now on the home straight and on New Year's Eve will complete his final run – and will be flanked by fellow members of the Porthcawl Runners before taking a much-needed rest.

"I am looking forward to finishing, I need to stop!" he added. "I'm at that point now, for health reasons more than anything."

"I need to have proper rest and give myself the chance to eat and sleep properly and not think about running for a few days."

Bowen has been fundraising via his JustGiving page and has exceeded his original target of £1,000. To donate, visit

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/365challenge.

CARL FIELD

Bridgend Athletic seconds put on a fine performance

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC second XV, playing with a full complement of players after the previous week's disappointing turnout, won a hard-fought physical battle up front by 15-0 away at Llandoverly in a Welsh Conference West League game.

Following heavy snowfall earlier in the week the pitch was very heavy with some pools of water present.

The opening quarter saw the Athletic going through the phases. Good ball carrying by centre Chris Price aligned to tactical kicking from Scott Jones and Scott Govan kept the Athletic on the front foot against a heavier Drovers 8.

A turnover ball on the Athletic 10-metre line allowed centre Scott Govan to offload to No 8 Hywel Cosby.

Cosby returned the favour before Govan gave an inside pass to co-centre Price to cross the whitewash for the second consecutive Saturday.

The Athletic pack were having their best

outing of the season. Their defensive tackling with Aled Pilliner, Liam Griffiths and Lloyd Pemberton was also first rate.

A rare lapse saw Llandoverly break out and a certain try looked on the cards when No 8 Hywel Cosby appeared from nowhere to make a try-saving tackle and turn over the ball.

Good work at the breakdown from lock Aaron Mordecai saw scrum half Ryan Pickford link with wing Liam Phillips and flanker Liam Griffiths to put wing Josh Seldon away, but unfortunately, he slipped on the greasy surface when a try looked likely.

Strong rucking and a great carry by flanker Gareth Bartlett saw him offload from a tackle to prop Lewis Down, who crashed over for an unconverted try to give the Athletic a 12-0 half-

time lead.

The second half saw the big Llandoverly 8 come back at the Athletic.

It required a huge defensive effort with hooker Alex Borley prominent with some brave work on the floor, aligned to excellent out of hand kicking from the backs to keep the Drovers at bay.

Grant Edwards came on to help the defensive effort. With two minutes remaining, Govan sealed the game with a penalty for an excellent 15-0 win.

Athletic chairman Andrew Tellem remarked: "It was one of the best second team performances for a few seasons, which made choosing Lloyd Pemberton and Aaron Mordecai joint man of the match a difficult task."

AB

PORTHCAWL RUNNERS GUNNING FOR PROMOTION

AT the halfway stage of the 2017/18 West Glamorgan Cross Country League, Porthcawl Runners are gunning for promotion on two fronts.

The South Road-based club have made a solid start in Division Two of both the men's and women's team competitions and are in with a real chance of securing top flight status for next year.

With three events still to come, the men are third while the women sit fourth, but are within touching distance of the top two promotion

places in both.

The Runners are also the highest-ranked Bridgend club in the men's competition, ahead of the likes of Cornelly Striders, Brackla Harriers and Ogmore Phoenix.

In the individual standings, Deb Goule is leading the way in the vet 45 women category and is also third female overall.

Running between September and March, the league sees teams compete across six scenic events, with fun runners competing alongside some of the best athletes in the region.

The first three were at

Llanmadoc North Gower, Gnoll Park and Kenfig Nature Reserve, with fixtures at Tata Reservoir (January 14), Margam Park (January 28) and Aberavon Beach (March 4) still to come.

The Runners are led for a seventh year by captain Will Edwards, who said their success simply sums up the "buzz" in the club generally at present.

There was also success for the club at last weekend's Run4All Santa Run at Aberavon where Goule bagged the first female prize with Dave Bennett third man home.

CARL FIELD

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14 14 JAGUAR XF 2.2 D Luxury 4dr automatic, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, pdc, 30k, black, full leather...£15495

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17 17 KIA OPTIMA 1.7 CRDI 2 Estate ISG, Kia warranty April 2024, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 492 miles, black...£17495

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16 16 MERCEDES GLC250d Sport (Premium) 4MATIC 5dr 9-G, Mercedes warranty June 2019, sat nav, panoramic roof, reverse camera, Bluetooth, black, full cream leather...£30995

14 64 MERCEDES SLK250 CDI BlueEfficiency 2dr convertible 7G-Tronic Plus, airscarf-neck level heating, Bluetooth, iridium silver, full leather...£14495

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15 15 MINI COOPER 1.5 3dr (TLC & Chili Pack) Mini warranty April 2018, 16"alloys, DAB, 18k, volcanic orange...£11495

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16 16 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 4x4 5dr (7-seater) Nissan warranty April 2019, pan roof, cruise, 12k, black...£16495

14 14 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 Active 3dr, Bluetooth, DAB, USB, 19k, silver...£4995

15 65 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 Active 3dr, Peugeot warranty Dec 2018, DAB, Bluetooth, USB, 8k, blue...£5995

14 64 PEUGEOT 125 2.0 VTI Pure Tech Feline 3dr, DAB, reverse camera, privacy glass, 25k, black, full leather...£6495

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12 62 PEUGEOT RCZ 1.6 THP Sport 2dr coupe, 18"alloys, cruise, Bluetooth, 42k, grey...£8495

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09 **SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI FR 5-Dr** In red, 53,000 mile hot hatch at**£5,995**

13 **FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge** In white, 42,000 miles, glass roof, alloys etc**£5,695**

60 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE 5-Dr Automatic** In met-grey, 53,000 miles**£5,695**

64 **PEUGEOT 108 Active 3-Dr** In red, 23,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495**

10 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr** In electric blue, 51,000 miles**£4,995**

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10 **FORD Fiesta Edge (82) 1.2 3-Dr** In vision blue, only 33,000 miles, low insurance**£4,795**

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£3,995



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Vale of Glamorgan Pool League latest round-up

BILLY United hosted the Witchill Wildcats in the Asprou Barbers Vale Pool League, and this top of the table encounter did not disappoint as both sides played some great pool.

The night started well for the Billy, taking a 3-1 lead after the first session of singles. Gary Roberts gave the Billy a great start by beating Barry's number one pool player Chris Bardsley in a very tight game.

Paul Everest beat Mark Ingram while Ian Roberts gained the scalp of Ceri Morris and John Farrugia brushed aside Steve Watkins.

The first set of doubles saw Wildcats' Morris and James Hill beat G Roberts and Martin Pring. Then the Billy's Farrugia and Les Ashton made the score 4-2 at the halfway point.

The second session of singles was even with solid performances from James Hill, Mark Ingram and Chris Bardsley.

John Farrugia made the best clearance of the night against Morris, his shot choice and positioning of the white was purely sublime and gave the Billy a 6-4 lead going into the last doubles.

The next 30 minutes saw a

complete turn around with the Wildcats dominating the last two doubles with Watkins/Morris and then Hill/Bardsley playing faultless pool to set up a black ball sudden death shoot out, which saw Ceri Morris pot the only black for a Wildcats bonus point - well done to both teams for such an entertaining night.

At the Castle Hotel, the Dark Lords entertained Finnegan's and recorded another 11-1 victory to extend their lead at the top of the table to 10 points.

The scoreline did not reflect the quality of the away team and they were unlucky not to win more frames. Having said that, kudos to Matt Tobin, Gareth Foxall and Gavin Rowlands who all achieved 100 per cent records on the night.

Finnegan's' only point came from Harry Asprou and Carson Martin in the last session of doubles.

The Good, the Bad and the Ship entertained O'Briens, and after a long, tight match they scraped a 7-5 win.

Captain Graham Avenant won three out of the four frames he played and he was ably supported by Mike Dunn, Simon Moore and Matthew Nicholas.

O'Briens' star players were again Martyn Croke, Jeff Morgan

and John Wolfenden.

The King William IV of Cadoxton travelled to the Baruc Arms and came away with a 8-4 win.

The King William took a 5-1 lead at the halfway point with Les Hunt and Neil Tipples in great form, dominating their matches.

The second half was more even, with Gavin Stevens and Calum Petty winning vital frames for the Baruc Arms. A night of open pool with frames that could have gone either way.

The end of February will see the start of the League Cup, a format of 12 teams in two divisions decided by where teams have finished in the league.

The games consist of four singles, two scotch doubles, then four singles and two scotch doubles on a home and away basis.

There's an opportunity for new pubs and clubs to join the league cup. If you would like to enter a new team please text Joe on 07870 498738.

Nadolig Llawn to all our teams, players and sponsors. Thanks to Asprou Barbers, Park Crescent, Eze Drive Driving School and R&M mobile Valeting.

JB



Jon Williams and Sam Warburton with Cardiff and Vale College students.

Sam Warburton visits college to advise about nutrition

CARDIFF Blues and Welsh international rugby player Sam Warburton visited Cardiff and Vale College recently to hold a Q&A session with the college's sport students.

The record holder for most Wales caps as captain visited the college's Cardiff International sport campus (CISC) in Leckwith. He held two question and answer sessions with students.

"The facilities here are really high quality. It's great that Cardiff has such a good sports facility," said Sam.

Sam was at the college in his role as ambassador for PAS Nutrition, accompanying PAS founder and WRU national team nutritionist Jon Williams.

Jon, who was also consultant nutritionist to the British and Irish Lions on their successful 2013 Australian tour, gave a presentation to the students on the role close attention to nutrition and supplements can play in developing and honing sporting ability and fitness.

Simply Fresh, the shop at the College's city centre campus on Dumballs Road, will stock a range of batch screened PAS Nutrition products.

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club



Debbie Hawkins and Vivien Liles.

THE results for the Barrivale Bridge Club on Tuesday, December 12 are as follows.

The top three places were: first, Jane Brook and Mick Green 68.75 per cent.

Second, Noelle Bond and Kay Dyer 59.58 per cent.

Third, Celia and Huw Thomas 57.50 per cent.

The handicap winners were Jane Brook and Mick Green. Also, this year's handicap winners of the Doughty Bowl were Debbie Dawkins and Vivien Liles

(pictured above).

As always, new members are welcome at the club and a partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us call 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or call in at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesday evening at 7pm.

While our classes for improvers continue to run on Friday mornings the next beginner's class commences in September 2018.

LINDA HOUSTON

Evan's success

VALE trainer Evan Williams landed the Hatfields Shrewsbury Land Rover And Jaguar Conditionals Handicap Hurdle at Bangor-on-Dee on Friday (December 15) with his Virginia Chick which came home three-and-a-half lengths ahead of Donald McCain's Wazowski.

Virginia Chick, a winner seven days earlier, was ridden by Conor Ring and at five-years-old was the youngest horse in the race and went off the 4-6 favourite.

BRIAN LEE

Run 4 Wales launches its trio of 10K races

THE Run 4 Wales 10K Series is here to kickoff a new era of distance running in Wales.

A brand new season ticket has gone on sale to offer discounted entry to a trio of unique events in south Wales.

More than 1,000 runners have already pre-registered to save £10 across the Brecon Carreg Cardiff Bay Run, ABP Newport Wales 10K and Brecon Carreg Barry Island 10K in 2018.

Run 4 Wales chief executive Matt Newman said: "Our aim at Run 4 Wales is to deliver world class running events while providing a platform for people to stay active and healthy."

"The Brecon Carreg Cardiff Bay Run is now one of Wales' largest 10K races, and we hope the ABP Newport Wales 10K and Brecon Carreg Barry Island 10K will become unmissable events on the Welsh sporting calendar."

The popular Brecon Carreg Cardiff Bay Run kick off the Run 4 Wales 10K Series on March 25, when around 6,000 competitors will take on a flat, fast and family friendly course

around Cardiff Bay.

Season ticket holders can then be a part of history at the inaugural ABP Newport Wales Marathon.

Another brand-new event completes the final leg of the series on August 5. Sun, sea and sand will provide the backdrop to the Brecon Carreg Barry Island 10K next summer.

Forming part of the popular Barry Island Weekenders programme, it will bring a festival of running to the popular seaside resort on fully closed roads with charity fundraising, summertime fun and fancy dress at its heart.

Runners taking part in two or more of the events will be eligible to win generous overall series prizes.

Season tickets are now available at www.cardiffbayrun.co.uk,

www.newportwalesmarathon.co.uk or

www.barryisland10k.co.uk. Only 1,000 are

available, so sign up as

soon as possible if

you'd like to take

advantage of the

discounted price.

BARRY BEAVERS HOLD THEIR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Barry Beavers Swimming Club recently had their Christmas party at Sully Bowls Club with a tombola, raffle, group acts and award ceremony.

It all started with Pat, Chris, Sarah and Cath being given a bouquet of flowers and wine from Mark, Kyle, and Ellie on behalf of the whole club for all the hard work what they all done for the club throughout 2017.

They also introduced their new patrons to the club: Clive and Sue Taylor, also a special award was given to Carys Robinson, who is one of our new instructors this year to the club.

The Anne Haslam award was given to Jen Thomson, the David John Horgan Harding award was given to Nicholas Cushen, who along with Cath Jones was given the Gordon Harris Award this year.

The caterers were given a box of chocolates for all their hard work at PIP 2 (Party In The Park 2) and for this year's Christmas party, they were Donna, Fiona, Linda, Dawn and Helen.

Also the swimming gala team were congratulated for being this year's Regional/National Champions, with Pat being presented the cup that the team won.

Lastly, the photographers to the club



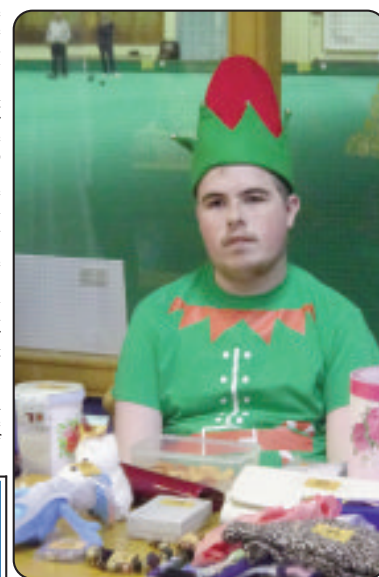
Pete and Amie were rewarded for all the photography from PIP2 and the Christmas party they had taken this year.

Unfortunately, Pat didn't receive the silver medals for the league swim team in time to present them.

It was a return of the Battle of The Acts, which had very much improved talents from this year's PIP 2. The acts were great!

Also, Wizzard made an appearance and performed their Christmas hit 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day'. There was an opportunity to have a sing-song with the karaoke until the end of the party.

NC



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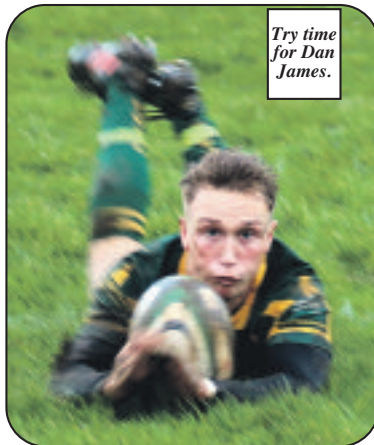
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Irresistible Bridgend Ath grab another win



Matthew Muir forces his way over the line. ALL PICTURES BY JOHN CANNON



Try time for Dan James.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC continued their rich vein of form with their fourth consecutive Division 1 West Central League victory as they came away from Ammanford with a 46-7 win.

This was the third time in those four games and fourth of the season that the Athletic have crossed for seven tries in a game, as Ammanford had no answer to the Athletic's clinical finishing and outstanding defence. The last four games have yielded 152 points for and only 17 against with a 24-2 favourable try count.

The Athletic kicked off and an Ammanford player knocked on for a colleague to pick up in an offside position. Athletic outside half Luke Bevan punished

the mistake, kicking the resultant penalty.

Playing with great intent the Athletic forced a lineout five metres from the home side try line, when Ammanford illegally halted a driving maul.

Hooker Lee Murphy found lock Ben Cording with the throw. The driving maul was halted but thrusts from Murphy and flanker Cameron Thomas softened up the home defence for prop Matthew Muir to force his way over for his first try of the season. Bevan's conversion made the lead 10-0.

Ammanford were trying to match the Athletic's attacking intent but found no way past a very organised defence, prominently featuring the back row of Ben Howe, Cameron Thomas and Ben Davies and the solid tackling of centres Tom Jenkins and Stuart Floyd-Ellis.

Good interplay from

lock Jonathon Stoker and Jenkins saw the ball reach scrum half Dan James. James chipped over the defence and was second favourite to reach the ball with two defenders converging on it.

However, James showed great pace and determination to nip between the defenders and gather his own kick to cross the whitewash. Bevan converted.

Another Athletic drive was halted just short of the Ammanford line. Quick passing between halfbacks James and Bevan saw centre Stuart Floyd-Ellis step inside a defender to cross for the third Athletic try.

Great forward play with captain Ben Howe prominent saw the ball reach centre Floyd-Ellis who broke the first line of defence before offloading to fellow centre Jenkins.

Jenkins was held just short of the line, but

quick hands saw full back Jonathan Phillips pop an exquisite pass for wing Robin Davies to cross in the corner for his fourth try of the season and the bonus point try for the Athletic.

It also brought up a season's half century of points for the new Athletic recruit from Kidwelly. Bevan's touchline conversion signalled half-time and a 29-0 interval lead for the Athletic.

Ammanford came out pumped up for the second half and were awarded a penalty try for the Athletic infringing at a five metre scrum.

Keeping the ball tight the Ammanford forwards tried to impose themselves on the game forcing a series of five-metre scrums and lineouts.

The Athletic changed their props with Rhodri Apsee and Matthew Norman replacing Wayne Fooks and Matthew Muir. Eventually, the deadlock was broken when Norman, Apsee and Murphy drove their opponents backwards at another scrum five metres from the try line for referee Lloyd Hughes to award the Athletic a relieving penalty.

Mr Hughes also showed great authority by sending the Ammanford coaches to the halfway line area.

The Athletic were determined that Ammanford would not stage a comeback as in the first game of the season when they overturned a 19-3 deficit to run out 29-19 victors as indiscipline cost the Athletic dearly, playing nearly all the second half with 13 or 14 players.

Man of the match hooker Lee Murphy epitomised this attitude

refusing to take a backward step and fighting fire with fire.

Ammanford then tried to stretch the game again, but a wayward pass on halfway was seized on by Athletic scrum half James who hacked on and outpaced the covering defence to judge a final kick over the try line to perfection and win the foot race for his second try of the game and fourth of the season.

It was his final action as the Athletic brought on their remaining three replacements scrum half Aled Thomas, wing Tom James and flanker Harry Griffiths.

The three replacements were involved in the next Athletic try. Griffiths secured possession. Thomas launched the backs for Michael Powell and Jonathon Phillips to combine and put the youngster James over for his first senior Athletic try.

With the final move of the game from a five-metre lineout, quick handling saw the ball reach centre Floyd-Ellis who side-stepped his way over for his second match try, and second consecutive Saturday try brace.

He has also joined Sean Williams and Dan Howells, who has recently signed for Swansea, as the leading Athletic try scorer for the season with six tries. Bevan converted for a match haul of 11 points as his side ran out 46-7 victors.

Team manager Paul Hearne described the Athletic performance as awesome and should give the side confidence for their final match of 2017 – a local derby against Tondur at the Morganstone Brewery Field on December 30, kick-off 2.30pm. **AB**



Matthew Davies attacks. ALL PICTURES BY GARETH ANTHONY

Derby settled by piece of Tatchell magic



Matthew Murphy makes a break.



Steffan Jones scores.

Losing run continues for Pencoed RFC

PENCOED RFC embarked on the long, scenic route to Builth Wells with full intentions of halting a run of a couple of losses.

The game started brightly enough with them quickly gaining a foothold in Builth's 22. Following a series of pick and drives, Pencoed got the ball over the try line, but, unfortunately, the referee ruled that the ball was lost in the act of scoring.

This was compounded when, on 10 minutes, Builth had an attacking lineout. They set up a driving maul and proceeded to trundle over the line for the opening score; the conversion failed.

With conditions deteriorating, Pencoed still tried to play a running game. This brought a couple of chances which, frustratingly, weren't converted.

In fact, Builth increased their lead with a penalty on 36 minutes. Pencoed finished the half on the attack which eventually led to Rhys Clarke squeezing over in the corner. The conversion fell agonisingly short to leave a half-time score of 8-5.

The second half could not have

started worse for Pencoed. With barely three minutes on the clock Builth created an overlap on their blind side resulting in their second try. Again, the conversion was missed.

Pencoed's cause was not helped when they lost, first, debutant youth hooker Zac Taylor and then, on 50 minutes, influential captain Kieron Moore to injury.

These injuries followed Pencoed losing Morgan Jones in the first half. However, with typical "never-say-die" attitude, Pencoed finished the game in search of another all-important second score.

Through a combination of resolute defence and errors Pencoed were not able to trouble the scorers leaving a full-time score of 13-8.

Pencoed's next game is the annual Boxing Day fixture with Heol-y-Cyw. This year, the game takes place in Heol-y-Cyw with an 11am kick-off.

All that remains is for me to wish a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year to all registered players, coaches, members and their families. Thank you for reading and for your support.

SD

THIS Christmas local derby between Tondur and Maesteg no way lived up to expectations and in the end came down to one piece of magic from scrum half Josh Tatchell.

The first 20 minutes saw the home side press the Maesteg defence without really looking like crossing the try line, with Josh Tatchell keeping the scoreboard ticking over with two well taken penalties.

In a game full of errors the crowd never really had much to keep them warm for the remainder of the first half.

Early in the second period though, Maesteg turned the game on its head when second row Matthew Davies crashed over for the game's first try; Tadgh McGuckin added the conversion to make it 6-7 to the Llynfi valley side.

Then a mix up at the base of the

scrum close to their own line allowed flanker Ryan Turner to extend the visitors' lead with a simple try.

Maesteg had chances to finish off their opponents but couldn't find that killer punch and Tondur rallied in the final 10 minutes with the game-changing moment coming from scrum half Josh Tatchell.

The No9 made a quick break close to the Maesteg try line and provided a beautiful flick pass for second row Steffan Jones to crash over for a sensational end to the game.

Tatchell himself added the conversion to give Tondur a 16-12 lead with only a couple of minutes remaining.

An important win for the Waterwheelers but they will know that they will need to improve for their visit to Bridgend Athletic on December 30, a 2.30pm kick off at the Brewery Field.

MIKE SULLY